START

ONI

LONDON

REEL K6A

War Diaries

1 June 1940 thru

30 June 1940

Continued

from

Reel K5A

War Diary

21.6.40
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

NESTORA	Placed in Eriksberg shipyard floating dock 19/6 (Consul, Goteborg, 120/21)
HAVELLAND	Loading scrap machinery. No other indication of intention to depart. (801 Kingston 1628/21)

War Diary

21.6.40
Friday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FRISCO	Tanker, arrived Ceara 20/6 fully loaded from Curacoa. Sailed 20/6 (S.O.(1) Freetown 0730/21)
ANTONIO LIMONCELLI	At Maranhao N.C.S.O., Rio de Janeiro, 1605/21)
AEQUITAS,	At Ceara " "
MONBALDO.	At Para. " "
FORTUNATA	Admty. 1634/20, asking whether FORTUNATA brought into Santa Cruz by tugs. No. (Teneriffe, 1022/21)

War Diary

21.6.40
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked.

CORINTHIAN Chased.	British, 3122 tons, chased by submarine 51°47' N., 6°24' W., 0421/21, (30 miles west of Milford Haven) (Lands End Radio 0312/21, C. in C.Nore 0258/21 CORINTHIAN 0332/21.
PRUNELLA Torpedoed.	Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Torpedoed 0652, 49°44' N., 8°52' W., (about 120 miles W.S.W. of Land's End.) A sloop has been ordered to contact the U-boat. (Scapa Base Rec.0757/21, C. in C.W.A.0816/21)
AL RAWDAH Attacked.	British (3540 tons) in ballast from Alexandria to Liverpool (Convoy H.G.F.34) attacked by submarine 60 miles W. of Hartland Point (AL RAWDAH 1311/21) 51°5' N., 6°20' W., 1258/21 (I.C.0489/40) sighted submarine 1258 51°5' N., 6°7' W., (Lands End Radio intercept 1300/21)
YARRAVILLE Sunk	British (3627 tons) from Bordeaux to Texas torpedoed and sunk 39°30' N., 11°34' W. (120 miles N.W. of Cape Roca) at 1457/21 (Plymouth W/T TOR 1602/21)
VILLE DE NAMUR (Sunk 19/6)	Belgian, 7463 tons, bound to Bordeaux. Lifeboats from her found at 0955/21 in a position 100 miles W. of Rochefort. (V.C.N.S.) (A/C 209 Sqdn. 1625/20)
ARAGAZ gunned	French, 5009 tons, from Constantina to La Pallice, gunned by submarine in the middle of the Bay of Biscay at 2300/21. (V.C.N.S.) 45° 53' N., 4°7' W., (204° Belle I. 95 miles) B.I. (I.C.0489/40)
LUXEMBURG Sunk.	Belgian (5809 tons) from Buenos Aires to Antwerp torpedoed and sunk at 1711/21 about 60 miles W. of Belle Isle. (V.C.N.S.) 47°25' N., 4°55' W., at 1811/21 (I.C.0489/40) Received 1630 G.M.T. DE EVXR Position 47.23N long 4.50W now Q.T.A. S.O.S. was H A L T mile before us and we saw smoke and one explosive in number 2 crew is in tow boats which are going to another Belgian ship. Message may refer to Belgian steamer LUXEMBOURG. Ends. 1633 G.M.T.Landsend Radio. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1742/21)
ELI KNUDSEN	Norwegian tanker (9026 tons) was found abandoned 50°36' N., 8°44' W. still floating (off Fastnet) p.m./21 (I.C.0490/40) Now sunk (D.C.N.S.24/6)
SAN FERNANDO	British (13056 tons) torpedoed but still floating 50°20' N., 10°23' W. (off Fastnet) 1912/21 (I.C.0490/40)
Unknown ship	Torpedoed 0624 46°37'N 4°10'W (60 miles SW belle Isle (ASWD 290)

War Diary

21.6.40
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked. (Ctd.)

WELLINGTON STAR — S.S. PIERRE L.D. arrived this evening with 52 seamen picked up (0700?) hours June 19 from WELLINGTON STAR torpedoed June 15 about 80 miles W. of Oporto. One whaler with 17 men lost to sight first night of which no news. (Bond Casablanc S250/21)

TALIA GORTHAN — Have picked up 3 officers and 8 men survivors of Swedish ship TALIA GORTHAN in position 048 degs. 50' North 007 degs. 31' West. No casualties. 2nd Boat with Captain and 9 said to be in the vicinity not located. Ship torpedoed 80 miles south-ward Scilly at 0303/20 by a light grey submarine white number on the port side thought by mate to be Italian. Crew state submarine signalle to second submarine. Expect to rejoin convoy OG 34 at 2345 (LEITH, 2140/21)

Submarines Reported.

0258 — 51°47' N., 06°24' W., reliable fix. CAMPBELL and destroyers ordered to attack. (C. in C.W.A., 0318/21

0330 — My 0318, corrected position, 51°51' N., 06°19' W., at 0330. (C. in C.W.A., 0344/21)

0435 — Bearing of U-boat at 0435, 354 deg. from Lands End. (A.C.W.A. 0455/21)

0450 — By a/c, 57°50' N., 1°00' E., at 0450, steering 010 deg. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1056/21) On further investigation, submarine thought to be SEVERIN. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1322/21)

0746 — My 0746, U-boat, correction position, 48°55' N., 6°22' W. (C. in C.W.A., 1304/21).

1340 — Enemy submarine in 51°05' N., 06°20' W., reliable fix. WREN, WOLVERINE, WHIRLWIND to attack. (C. in C.W.A., 1354/21)

Your 0746 and 1304, have carried out search in this position without success. Intend to resume patrol between Ushant and Lizard Head. (WINCHELSEA, 1545/21)

0949 — D.F., unreliable fix, probable U-boat, 50°50' N., 12°30' W. (C. in C.W.A., 1039/21)

1211 — By D.F. reliable. 59°25' N., 4° E. (280° Kopervik 39 miles) (I.C.0489/40)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Submarines Reported. (Ctd.)

2232 60°20' N.,4°E (265° Bergen 41 miles) Indefinite position (I.C. 0489/40)

0014 By D/F 55°30' N.,11°20' W. Unreliable fix (D.D.I.C.0121/21)

0914 By D/F 58°45' N., 5°20' E. Reliable (D.D.I.C.1002/21

0856 By A/C 63°5' N., 6°50°E. (A/C 0856/21)

1500 By French ship 39°30' N., 11°25' W. (Scapa W/T 1500/2

1811 47°25' N., 04°55' W., Reliable fix. VANQUISHER to attack (C. in C.W.A., 1836/21)

Submarines Attacked.

0204 Re. my 0256 attacked on sighting report of Norwegian S.S. (NINA BORTHEN presumed U-boat had dived, dropped charge owing to uncertainty, continued escort as (corrupt groups) still out of action. My position at 0204 048°55' north 006°22' west. (ARABIS 1000/21)

1614 46°28'N., 3°51' W., (211° Belle Isle 58 miles) by H.M.Y. VIVA II. A.2. (I.C.0489/40) joining VANQUISHER. VIVA II considers U-boat sunk remaining vicinity (BROKE 1931/21)

Mediterranean

Submarines Reported.

At least 4 submarines for Italian E. Africa proceeded via Cape, where they may co-operate with German raiders attacking British shipping. C.3. (S.O (1) Alexandria 1040/21)

Italian submarines are always to be referred to as Italian U-boats (Admty. "A" Message, 2028/19)

Submarines Attacked.

Italian U-boat was attacked at 0830Z/21 off Djibuti, KANDAHAR reports destruction not certain. Search continues.

R.O. previously reports a sunken Italian submarine is lying among reefs to S.E. of Port Sudan. Source R.A.F. R/C. Tug and armed party now proceeding to capture crew near wreck. (C. in C.E.I.0756Z/22)

War Diary

22.6.1940.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

France

Information was received late in the evening from B.N.L.O. Bordeaux that the French had signed an Armistice with Germany. C. in C., Portsmouth and C. in C., Western Approaches were instructed not to allow French warships at Portsmouth and Plymouth to proceed to sea.
C. in C., Mediterranean was instructed to defer an intended sweep of the central Mediterranean with the Fleet, and all naval units in Gibraltar were ordered to raise steam.
Subsequently DORSETSHIRE was ordered to Dakar and one destroyer to Casablanca.
RESOLUTION and the remaining ships reverted to usual notice for steam.

Admiral Darlan has ordered that the Fleet shall fight to the last ship.
Petain and Darlan (Naval member of Cabinet) have given their pledged word that no French ship shall pass into German hands and in the view of our ambassador that is our last hope. But the French N.L.O. at the (British) Admiralty has received instructions from the French Admiralty to sail certain French warships now in British ports for North Africa, and the Admiralty have ordered C. in C., Portsmouth and C. in C., W.A. to accord all facilities.

Efforts are being made to get off Polish and Belgian troops.
Arrangements are being made to take off certain French troops, principally Air Force and Technicians.
B.N.L.O. Bordeaux reports that BATORY and SOBIESKI sailed from Bayonne on 21/6 and 22/6 respectively with between 7000 and 9000 Polish troops.

Up to 1200/22 a total of 136,549 British, of whom 2,488 were casualties, and 12,716 Allied Troops had been evacuated from France, together with 310 guns, 2292 vehicles, 919 tons of Ammunition, and 881 tons of stores (M. 36,549)

War Diary

22.6.1940.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

AIR

Enemy aircraft crossed the coast at various points between Newcastle and Kent coast. Bombs were dropped at a number of points in the Newcastle district, at Grimsby and Cleethorpes, Harwich (where a salvo fell in the harbour but did not explode) and in Kent. There were a few civilian casualties but no damage of military importance was done.

Bad weather prevented completion of reconnaissance flights to Trondheim and Stavanger.

One of our aircraft bombed a German 6000 ton merchant vessel, apparently a supply ship, hit and set her on fire, and it is thought sank her.

Two aircraft attacked a motor ship of about 1200 tons near Haugesund at 0500/22. The ship was hit and set on fire.

Five E-boats, 4 of which were minesweeping, were attacked at 1100/22 by an aircraft near Terschelling. No hits were seen. The aircraft was hit by pom pom fire.

Mining

6 magnetic mines were exploded in the Portsmouth approaches today. A/S yacht CAMPEADOR V had been sunk. Portsmouth was closed, but was re-opened again at 1614.

Magnetic mines were laid at Bordeaux and the entrance to the port is closed at night. Sweeping is in progress.

Minelaying continued in the East Coast Barrier. One magnetic mine has been exploded off Portland. All British ports are open, though Portsmouth, where 6 mines were exploded near the Approach Channel, was not opened until 1614.

/The Tees.....

War Diary

22.6.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining. Contd.

The Tees was closed after the mining at 1020 of LA BASIASE (French P.V.) but was reopened at 2200.

Mutiny of German Prisoners

There has been a rising among the interned Aliens and German prisoners on board the DUCHESS OF YORK which is taking them to Canada.

Convoys.

B.C. Group 1. — 3 ships with troops for Freetown are at Durban.

ARUNDEL CASTLE — Bound for the Cape with 1700 R.A.F. personnel is in Western Approaches.

B.C. Group 2. — 3 ships with troops for Freetown is expected to arrive at Simonstown 23/6 escorted by CORNWALL.

Italian Hostilities

There were intermittent air raids on Alexandria during the night 21/22. No damage was done to the Fleet personnel or material.

R.A.F. today located a sunken Italian U-boat near Small Island, Barracuia (19. 13'N 38.9'E), which had apparently struck a reef.

War Diary DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET 22.6.40.
Saturday

Admiral West and staff with destroyer LE HARDI arrived here and MAMELUCK and battleship French Battleship JEAN BART arrived Casablanca.

Message received en route gave succession of command after Darlan if necessary as De Laborde Esteva Abrial Gelsoul, ordered navy to continue fighting unless orders are cancelled by legal French Govt. and states that on no account must any ship fall into the hands of the enemy.

Senior officers appear almost resigned about the future of the fleet and quite expect may have to be sunk in consequence. Junior officers show considerable feeling against possibility which is described as treason. Two main arguments are (a) French families are in the power of the enemy and hands of officers and men are therefore tied (b) Present Government knows best and orders must be obeyed whatever they are.

Request that liaison officers may be kept up to date with progress of negotiations (such knowledge lends authority) and prior information as to any British move which may be used to influence French naval officers. (B.N.L.O. Brest at Casablanca 2315/22 to A.C.W.A. & Adty.)

War Diary

22.6.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations- Home Fleet

Capital Ships hit 20/6

My 2235/20. One hit on Capital Ship is certain but target may have been Pocket Battleship. (CLYDE 0503/22 to R.A.S.)

Your 2203 incompletely received. If you consider SCHARNHORST has gone into Stavanger or has passed you, you should retire at high speed; otherwise comply with Adty. 2105/21 till you are sure she cannot be intercepted. (C. in C., H.F. 0204/22 to C.S. 18)

Return to Base (C.S. 18 0425/22 to F.O.C.B.C.S)

Unless local conditions give reason to contrary your force should now be withdrawn at high speed. (C. in C. H.F. 0123/22 to C.S.18)

Expect arrive 1000. Request gate 1100. (F.O.C.B.C.S. 0833/22 to F.O.C.C.S)

Operation "Collar"

Your 1026/22.x 14 craft have sailed (C. inC., Portsmouth 1223/22 to Admty)
xSailing instructions for craft taking part in COLLAR.

Defence of U.K.

D.S.V.P's 1844/21 request you will allocate the 13 motor fishing vessels assembling at Hartlepool for employment in your sub-command Your final organisation should allow for the continuous patrol during dark hours and thick weather of all possible landing beaches patrol craft working two watches. (C. in C., Rosyth 1637/22 to F.O.I/C Tyne)

Movements

EMERALD

To sail for Halifax 24/6. Best available A/S protection to be given to about 12° W for a certain reason (D.O.D.(F) 1234/22)

War Diary

22.6.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

France (Evacuation)

Am taking BLAIRNEVIS to investigate report from Polish tug that 400 Polish troops are at Ile d' Yeu (VANQUISHER 1401/22 to F.O.C. 2 C.S.)

Situation at Bordeaux

250 Poles embarked in BLAIRNEVIS, no troops remaining. Arranged for French to carry out more demolition, all oil destroyed. VANQUISHER and BLAIRNEVIS formed Le Verdon to collect convoy. (VANQUISHER 1224/22, C.S.2 1206/22).

Any ship at La Pallice to be sailed unescorted. When sure presence no longer necessary proceed to 45:38 N. 1:40 W. and patrol as cover for transports entering Gironde. Any submarine within 50 miles to be attacked. (F.O.C. 2 C.S. 1106/22 to VANQUISHER).

Your 1006/22. Report approximate number of other troops and personnel requiring embarkation (F.O.C. 2 C.S. 1126/22 to BERKELEY).

Polish troops

Information from General Sikorski states 4000 troops marching from La Rochelle to Le Verdon should arrive by 0100/23, and 10,000 still at Bayonne and may arrive during next few days. (D.O.D.H. 1305/22 to C. in C., W.A.)

BATORY with 4000 and SOBIESKY with 3000 Polish troops left Bayonne 22 and 21 June respectively (B.N.L.O. Bordeaux 1713/22 to Adty.)

Czech troops

Czech Headquarters and about 6000 Czechs in Cette area 43:24 N., 3:42 E. British destroyer standing by. Urge French to assist with shipping. (N.I.D. 1830/22 to B.N.L.O. Bordeaux.)

Polish troops

ROYAL SCOTSMAN and CLAN FERGUSON sailed 2000/22 with 4000 Polish troops. DELIUS with 2000 troops delayed till 23rd. (BERKELEY 2000/22 to C.S.2).

CLAN FERGUSON, ROYAL SCOTSMAN with 4000 Polish troops leave Le Verdon 2115. DELIUS will follow 23/6 with 2000 troops. (BERKELEY 1930/22).

My 1401 and ref. 1206 pm F.O.C. 2 C.S. Poles left yesterday for South. My position course and speed 46:37 N. 2:22 W. 148° 20 knots (VANQUISHER 1900/22 to F.O.C. 2 C.S. BERKELEY).

If you are unable to embark pm today GALATEA will leave to go elsewhere; I suggest Bayonne St. Jean De Luz. Her position in this area must be known after three days and enemy action increases hourly. A submarine is active at no great distance. (R.A. in GALATEA 1315/22 to British Ambassador, Bordeaux).

War Diary

22.6.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

France (Evacuations)

Ambassador and complete staff leaving for U.K. in GALATEA 23rd June. (B.N.L.O. Bordeaux 2155/22 to Adty)

Am leaving Bordeaux when ambassador departs tonight. Will carry out demolition at Bec Dambes without French permission and move to Pauillar when Dambes completed. (R.A. BEAGLE 2210/22 to Adty)

100 A/C Engines

Highly desirable that 100 British aircraft engines in French Air Ministry Depot at Bordeaux should be evacuated. (D.C.D.H. 2248/22 to C.S.2.)

Convoy Code Words

Convoy Code Words allocated:-
Convoys for U.K. from Loire area.
Piano Motor Boxer Rivet Piano two Motor Two and So On.
Convoys for U.K. from La Pallice Gironde area
Stable Pongo Motto Olive Stable Two Pongo Two and So On.
(Adty. 2335/22)

War Diary

22.6.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of Channel Islands

Reported that considerable confusion caused by anti evacuation propaganda in Guernsey. Suggested it is of enemy origin. (SABLE 1500/22)

Seizure of Swedish Destroyers

Swedish Depot Ship and Tanker have returned to Faeros stating that Swedish Govt. demands return of ships.

You are to prevent the Swedish crews from returning to their ships. (C. in C., H.F. 1232/22 to MASHONA).

I have informed S.O. that I shall resist any attempt to re-embark crews (N.O.I.C. Faeros 1100/22).

The 4 destroyers are being brought to Scapa. (C. in C., H.F. 0951/22).

Iceland

Adty. 1701/19. ANDES with about 3000 troops will accompany ARGUS from Clyde to Reykjavik. ANDES ready to sail P.M. 23rd June. ANDES and 2 destroyers will proceed to Akureyei and Seydis Fjordur to disembark troops and then return to U.K. Store and M.T. Convoy will leave Clyde for Iceland about 30th June. (D.O.D.H. 1249/22 to C. in C., H.F.)

Report what local small craft available to facilitate disembarkation of troops and stores at Akureyei and Seydisfordur. (D.O.D.H. 2246/22 to N.O.I.C. Iceland).

War Diary

22.6.40
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS.

Air

British Air Activity.

5 E-boats attacked.	A/C attacked five E-boats at 1108/22 at 53°34' N., 5°5' E., No hits seen (I.C.0490/40)
Motorship set on fire.	Two A/C attacked an enemy Motorship of 1200 tons at 0500 12' N., of Haugesund. Ship hit and set on fire. (I.C. 0490/40)
	One M/V bombed at 1440, 14 miles N.W. of Bergen. No hits observed (I.C.0490/40)
Patrols.	Certain patrols not being flown this evening owing to bad weather (C. in C.Rosyth 1808/22).
6000 ton Ship sunk.	Attacked a German M.V. about 6,000 tons 0500 59°35' N., 5°15' E. very heavily laden carrying deck cargo of crates and boxes. Bombs hit in after hold, experienced considerable blast, fierce fire started and stern began to sink at once. A/C had to make off into clouds to avoid a M.E. but later saw vessel with stern awash sinking rapidly, burning well nearly all over (Donibristle Rec. 1050/22/0910/22 A/C 0550/22).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N.I. Attacked.	Enemy A/C's attacked Convoy F.N.I. at 1030/22 53°6' N., 1°40' E., off Cromer (VEGA 0037/22)
Harwich	About 30 light bombs were dropped near Harwich last night. No casualties or damage to Naval Establishments. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2001/22 to Adty.)
	Reports from Master of Norwegian G.R.C. indicates possibility that Jan Mayen Island is being used as base for German Sea-Planes. (C.C.S.O.Kirkwall 1237/22 to Adty.)
Tees	Port now open (N.O.I.C.Hartlepool 2200/22 to Adty.)
A/C shot down by BERKELEY	It is understood that BERKELEY shot down an enemy A/C, believed to be a J.U.88, a.m./22 at Point de Grave near Le Verdon.

War Diary

22.6.40
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Portsmouth. Six mines were exploded near the Approach Channel. Port was re-opened at 1614 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1614/22)

Tees. Was closed after mining at 1020/22 of LA BASIASE, but was re-opened at 2200 (I.C.0490/40)

Trawlers in French ports. Equipment of L.L. Trawlers is not to be allowed to fall into enemy hands. Trawlers have been instructed to fit scuttle charge and means for destroying switch gear. (A.C.W.A. 1816/22 to F.O.C.2.C.S.)

Giroude. You are urgently required to sweep at Gironde, proceed forthwith if you have sufficient fule to reach there. (C. in C.W.A. 0901/22 to LORD GREY)

Enemy Intelligence

E-boats Your 1748/21 suggests that E-boats may carry some kind of mortar or grenade thrower (C. in C.Nore 1157/22 to Adty.)

There are indications of E-boat activity. (C. in C. Nore 1811/22)

Activity at Danzig. Report received, dated 17/6, that there was no room in Danzig alongside quays as these were all occupied by German ships unloading troops and material. (I.C.0490/40)

5 Trawlers appear to be M/S trawlers E. by N. about 4 miles proceeding North-easterly direction. Recd. from Flamborough Hd. 0320. (C. in C. Rosyth 0358/23 to Adty.)

M.V's routes. Merchant Ships from Trondhjem are routed East side of Fro Havet leaving Islands at Villa. Frequent seaplane patrol daily near Kya and often at 0200 15 miles N.W. of it. No surface A/S Patrol encountered. My 2235/20th June one hit on capital ship is certain but target may have been pocket battleship. (CLYDE 0503/22)

Capital ship hit 20/6

Activity at Oslo. Reliable American report states great activity at Oslo 21st June. Many ships all types with steam up. (N.A.Stockholm 1733/22 to D.N.I.)

Surface unit. Enemy surface unit at 60°N., 3°30' E., D/F report Position unreliable (D.C. 0152/22)

Shipping.

Convoy W.21 Troop convoy for India. Date of sailing. W.1, W.2, W.3. Ocean escort CUMBERLAND until

/relieved

War Diary

22.6.40
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Ctd.)

Convoy W.21 relieved by KENT. C. in C.W.A. to provide A/S protection and route to Freetown. C. in C.S.A. and C. in C.E.I. to arrange convoy's onward passage and exchange of ocean escort. (D.O.D(H)2000/22).

DUCHESS OF YORK (Taking interned aliens and prisoners of war to Canada.) Following received through Port Patrick Radio:- 1 man dead, 2 wounded, fear further rise. 57°0' N., 10°15' W. Course 27° 2000 G.M.T.2100/22 (F.O.I/C Greenock 0049/23)

All M.Vs to call for search All M.Vs, British sea-going Fishing Vessels, and all Foreign Fishing Vessels arriving in U.K. on or after 24 June, except British Convoys, British Liners on regular runs, and U.K. Coasting Traffic, must before proceeding to destinations call at ports named for search. (D. of L.D. 0024/22 to A.I.G. 46).

Miscellaneous

BROOMPARK Re message believed fictitious (Adty. 1337/22, C. in C., W.A. 1711/22).

Weather

	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	W.S.W. moderate, fresh locally.	Moderate to poor.	Wind veering to N.W. visibility improving slowly in N.
Channel	W. light.	Good, local haze.	Freshening W. wind, visibility similar
W. Approaches	W. moderate.	Good.	Wind veering to N.W., fresh.

War Diary

22.6.40.
Saturday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Netherlands Submarine O13	Overdue from patrol 21/6 at Dundee. No signals received since she sailed for patrol 12/6 in 57:0 N., 5:30 E. Submarine reported in C. in C., H.F. 0133/21 resembles O13 in some respects. Bare possibility she may have returned to Holland. If no news of her by 1200/23 she must be presumed lost. (V.A.(S) 1048/22).
WILK	Owing to external explosion 0025/20 in 57:0 N. 4:0 E. ship has suffered serious leak surface speed reduced to 6 knots. Intend returning to Rosyth though 57:11 N. 4:56 E. Request bombing restriction. (WILK 2200/22).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

Precautions vis-a-vis French — Terms of Armistice signed by French not being yet fully known, attitude of French Navy is not certain. DORSETSHIRE is to sail for Dakar with moderate despatch, and one destroyer forthwith for Casablanca. (D.O.D.F. 0252/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic

Convoy C.M. — Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Durban 0822Z/22).

Mediterranean

Polish Troops — Polish Embassy states that 2000 Polish Troops and Personnel have arrived at Port Vendres. They should be embarked if possible (D.O.D.(F) 0133/22 to KEPPEL).
Re. Adty. 2241, 21/6 to KEPPEL.
VELOX, KEPPEL at Port Vendres. Neither British Embassy nor French Govt. parties arrived. Further report. (VELOX 0715/22 to Adty.)

Mediterranean - Operations

Sweep by Fleet in central Med. — Your 1211/20. Defer proposed operation. Acknowledge. (1st S.L. 2025/22 to C. in C., Med.)
Reply. Acknowledged. Have ordered Fleet to return to harbour (C. in C., Med. 2214/22).

Mediterranean - Air.

Raids on Alexandria — Alexandria raided between 0108 and 0513. Twenty bombs dropped. Slight damage to petroleum wharf. No damage to Fleet personnel and material. (R.A.I.C. Alexandria 1606/22, C. in C., Med. 0745/22).

BRITANNIC — Attacked without result by Italian a/c off west coast of Sardinia 1020/22 (D.S.)

War Diary

22.6.40.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Instructions have been issued that M/Vs bound for Japanese ports should not carry Depth-charges. (Hd. of M. 1129/22 to N.A. Tokyo).

War Diary

22.6.40.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships attacked

ARAGAZ — Gunned by submarine 45:53 N. 4:7 W. at 2300/21. (ARAGAZ 2258/21).

LA BASIASE — French P/V LA BASIASE mined at 1020/22 020° South Gare Light ½ mile. Port was closed, but re-opened at 2200. (I.C. 0490/40).

VILLE DE NAMUR — Belgian steamer VILLE DE NAMUIR with cargo of horses shipped in U.S.A. for Bordeaux sunk by submarine some 250 miles off Corunna June 19th. Part of crew landed Corunna today Saturday 22nd June. (Corunna 2020/22).

Submarines Reported

1400/20 — French Sloop BOUGAINVILLE reported submarine at 23:20 N. 16 W. course 270° (F.O.C.N.A. 0540/22 to DUNUEGAN CASTLE).

0926 — 44:0 N., 16:0 W. D/F report possible U-boat (D.D.I.C. 1030/22 to C. in C., W.A.).

1130 — 49:30 N., 12:0 W. D/F report. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1220/22 to C. in C., W.A.)

2107 — 45:0 N. 1:40 W. D/F report. Unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 2141/22).

2146 — 60:10 N., 1:30 E. 150° 6 miles, course 350. Aircraft report (269 Sqdn. 2146/22). Amend position to 60:10 N., 1:05 E. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0156/23).

2325 — 49:30 N. 11:10 W. D/F report. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2355/22).

2339 — 48:50 N. 12:40 W. Position indefinite. (D.D.I.C. 0100/23).

Estimated positions (D.D.I.C. 1404/22)

War Diary

22.6.40.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked

East Indies

By KANDAHAR.
(C. in C., E.I. 0756/22, 1304Z/22, KANDAHAR 0955/22).

Sunken U-boat — R.A.F. located sunken Italian U-boat near small Island Barracuia 19:13 N., 38:9 E. it had apparently struck reef, suggested this be published as a sinking, provided crew is captured. (C. in C., E.I. 1304Z/22).

Mediterranean

Ships Attacked

S.S. ASHCREST — 38:38 N., 0:13 E. (66° Alicante 38 miles) at 0055.
No details (I.C. 0489/40) (ASHCREST T.O.R. 0055/22).

Submarines reported

French aircraft reported presence of Italian submarine in unspecified positions off West Coast of Sardinia 21/6 and 22/6. (D.S.)

War Diary

23.6.40.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

France

The Bordeaux Govt. have accepted Germany's terms and there is now no question of the French Govt. evacuating from a Mediterranean port to continue the struggle from their overseas possessions. The policy of the British Govt. is that all armed forces who wish to continue the struggle should be encouraged and assisted to do so.

The German terms require the French Fleet to be surrendered to Germany in French ports. Certain French counter proposals have not been entirely rejected by Germany and the fate of the Fleet remains uncertain at present.

RICHELIEU from Bordeaux has arrived at Dakar, and COURBET and PARIS, from Portsmouth and Plymouth respectively are under orders to proceed to Oran. There are no other movements of main units of the French Fleet.

BERKELEY left Le Verdon 0915 with S.S. DELIUS, reporting that no one was left to be embarked and the Germans were believed to be opposite Le Verdon.

GALATEA is bringing home the British Ambassador and Ministers for Canada and South Africa. CALCUTTA wearing the flag of C.S.2, and Canadian destroyer FRASER are remaining in Bayonne area.

At Bayonne, more Polish troops are gathering H.M.C. destroyer RESTIGOUCHE and S.S. ARANDORA STAR arrived pm/23 to embark them, and more ships are on the way.

Several U-boats are believed to be off the Gironde interfering with traffic to North Africa. WREN has been ordered to carry out an A/S patrol.

At St. Jean de Luz about 1500 Poles and 2500 French Air Force personnel and experts are awaiting embarkation pm/23.

ETTRICK embarked a full load of Poles and refugees.

WILK

The Polish submarine WILK reported that as the of an external explosion on 20/6 she is leaking slightly and her surface speed is reduced. She is returning to her base at 4 knots and air protection has been despatched.

At 0600/23 our reconnaissance aircraft sighted an enemy destroyer some 90 miles N.N.E. of WILK, steering in her direction.

At..... .

War Diary

23.6.40.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

WILK (Contd.)

At 0828/23 our aircraft sighted another destroyer 50 miles N.E. of WILK, steering south, and attacked without success.

Forces of cruisers and destroyers were sent out from Scapa and Rosyth to intercept the enemy and to cover WILK which was located by aircraft at 1520. During the afternoon, however, WILK reported that she was able to dive, and the forces proceeding to her protection were withdrawn.

Air.

During the night 22/23 routine patrols off the Belgian and French coasts were cancelled owing to bad weather. One aircraft left 0200/23 to reconnoitre the Norwegian Coast between Stavanger and Lister Light. At 1000 an aircraft on the Trondheim reconnaissance reported 3 cruisers. Photographs reveal that these are probably a battlecruiser, a HIPPER class and a NURNBERG class cruiser and 2 destroyers.

Two Blenheims dropped bombs on the old and new aqueducts of the Dortmund-Ems Canal. Bombs were dropped between the aqueducts, apparently without result, and on barges in the Canal.

Our aircraft bombed the oil tanks at Amsterdam.

Marseilles and Toulon were heavily bombed by the enemy last night, but the harbours were not seriously affected and evacuation of troops proceeded.

Mining

2 mines were exploded in the Spithead area today. 4 moored mines were cut off North Island, New Zealand today.

All ports are open.

Convoys

B.C. Group 2 escorted by CORNWALL arrived at Simonstown today with troops for Freetown.

War Diary

23.6.40.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Casualties

Patrol vessel PATHAN was damaged by explosion at 0100/23 off Bombay. Carualties include 2 officers and 3 ratings killed, 22 wounded, 8 seriously. The port is closed pending investigation.

Destroyer KHARTOUM was damaged today by a burst torpedo air vessel and was beached at Perim. Casualties 1 killed, 3 seriously wounded. C. in C. E.I. later reported that salvage was considered impossible.

Italian Hostilities

An Italian U-boat was sunk by gunfire from a destroyer off Perim today.

War Diary

23.6.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Submarine positions at 0600 24/6:

TRITON TRIDENT vicinity Frohavet, RUBIS XXTS 4000 proceeding on surface to PFJV 1352, PORPOISE JSTS 3000 proceeding on surface to Blyth, SALMON SNAPPER vicinity Skudesnes, SEVERN C one, TRUANT South of C one, TRIBUNE JSTS proceeding on surface to Rosyth, CLYDE arrived Dundee 0500 24/6 from North East, WILK DKDN 2040 proceeding 6 knots on surface to Dundee, SUNFISH BH 28 arriving Blyth 0400 24/6, H 31 A5, A 44 in H 2 leaving pm for Lowestoft, H 34 West of H 2. (V.A.S. 1754/23)

Operations

Home Fleet (to bring in WILK)

2 cruisers from Rosyth to proceed to cover WILK returning on surface in damaged condition. (C. in C., H.F. 0853/23 to C.S.18).

BIRMINGHAM, SHEFFIELD, GALLANT sail from Rosyth 1030/23 to join and escort you (C. in C., Rosyth 1020/23 to WILK)18).

Proceed with ECHO intercept one enemy destroyer reported by aircraft at 0600 at 58:45 N. 4:20 E. steering 225° estimated speed 20 knots. SOUTHAMPTON with S.O. 18th C.S. and ZULU will support you. (C. in C., H.F. 0911/23 to NEWCASTLE)

Sailed from Scapa 0955 (F.O.C.O.S. 1106/23 to Adty.)

WILK reports she can dive (C. in C. Rosyth 1352/23 to BIRMINGHAM).

Am returning to Rosyth. (SHEFFIELD 1440/23 to C. in C., H.F.).

If at 1800/23 you have no information of enemy you are to return to harbour (C. in C., H.F. 1521/23 to NEWCASTLE).

Proceed to Dundee (S.2. 1958/23 to WILK)

France

Bordeaux, demolitions

BEAGLE, with demolition parties, left Bordeaux at 0010/23).

HOME COMMANDS

France

Demolitions at Bordeaux (Contd.)

Do not carry out demolitions without French permission. (D.C. 0039/23 to BEAGLE)

Ambassador and party embarked in H.M.C.S. FRASER at 1100 and now proceeding R/V with me at 1445 at St. Jean-de-Luz. (C.S.2 1151/23 to Adty.)

Numbers to be evacuated. Shipping situation.

Shipping situation 23rd. Numbers understood to require evacuation 33,000 Allied troops (Adty. 2031/20), say 12,000 General de Gaulle, 3,000 Colonel Bonavita, 1000 oddments, total 49,000. Shipping provided can carry 19,000 in Passenger ships and 34,000 in M/T Ships, total 53,000. This shipping should all have arrived on French Coast by pm/23rd. and some has already returned loaded to U.K. Ships not required are being released.

Armistice with Enemy signed

French have signed Armistice with Germany. H.M. Ambassador and Staff leave from West Coast; and there is no question of French Govt. evacuating from a Mediterranean port.

Maximum number of British civilians and Czech and Polish troops are to be embarked at Sete and Port Vendres and sailed forthwith to Gibraltar. (D.O.D.F. 0325/23 to VELOX).

F.O. Telegram to British Consuls in French Colonial Territory, appealing to Civil and Military Authorities of all French Overseas Territories to continue to fight even against the orders of the Govt. in France and guaranteeing funds to all such territories, sent in full to C. in C.'s (D.C. 0406/23 to C. in C.'s)

Demolitions Bordeaux

Report whether demolitions were carried out (V.C.N.S. 1852/23 to R.A. BEAGLE) Reply No. Charges were laid when your 0039 was received. (R.A. BEAGLE 2117/23).

French M.Vs ordered to British ports

Weygand has forbidden demolition or blocking work commercial ports without his sanction. Darlan has ordered all French or chartered M.Vs British waters or bound British ports be directed nearest French port South of 47° N. Admiral Sud ordered cessation loading iron ore to France. Accelerate delivery H.M. Govt. U.K. (B.N.L.O. Sud 0749/23).

Defeatism

Situation. Peruton, staff and local authorities will not permit anything conductive in slightest degree to strengthen will of Colonies to resist. (B.N.L.O. Sud 0744/23).

War Diary

23.6.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

France

Le Verdon

Request ships for Le Verdon be either turned back or diverted to Bayonne. It appears doubtful if embarkation to any extent will continue. Germans reported opposite Le Verdon. Have placed R.A. BEAGLE in charge there. (C.S.2 0835/23 to A.C.W.A.)

Czech troops

KEPPEL reports embarkation of Czech troops proceeding in French ships. About 3000 remain to be evacuated in British ships. About 3000 remain to be evacuated in British ships. About 2000 more retire on coast for whom accommodation is required. At Port Vendres hope embark all Czechs and Poles about 3000 today. (VELOX 1123/23 to Adty.)

French Air Force

At least 300 French officers and men main air personnel wish to proceed to England to continue fight. Not allowed by local French orders. Our policy unknown to me. Request instructions. Transport available (VELOX 2037/23)

Your 2037. Personnel referred to should be embarked. Our policy is that all French armed forces who wish to continue the struggle should be encouraged and assisted to do so. (V.C.N.S. 0117/24 to VELOX, repeated F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation Robin

PUFFIN has been sailed for operation Robin as escort for TEDWORTH. Ref. my 2359/22 delete all reference to PUFFIN advance remainder one day on roster (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0910/23 to C. in C., Nore).

Mining

2 more mines exploded near Portsmouth Approaches Channel (I.C. 0491/40).

Explosions reported

1000/23 8 miles S. of Shoreham (on line between Beachy Head and Selsey Bill).

1135/23 4 miles S. of Deal
1140/23 1 mile S. of Folkestone
(I.C. 0491/40).

War Diary

23.6.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British Air Activity

Destroyer attacked — Aircraft attacked one Enemy Destroyer of MAAS class at 0600 at 57:45 N. 4:40 E. No result noticed (Donibristle 1030/23 to Adty.)

5 E.boats attacked — At 1105/23 Aircraft attacked five E-boats 10' N.W. of Terschelling Light. Result not observed. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2028/23).

Amsterdam bombed — Oil tanks near Amsterdam bombed (H.Q.B.C. 0235/24).

Enemy Intelligence

1 destroyer See Home Fleet Operations — One destroyer course 225 speed 20 from 57:45 N. 4:20 E. (Aircraft 224 Sqdn. 0600/23) (D.C. 0656/23 to submarines). Hudson leaving Leuchars to shadow (C. in C. Rosyth 0824/23 to C. in C., H.F.) NEWCASTLE and ECHO intercept (C. in C., H.F. 091 /23).

1 destroyer — One destroyer course 170 speed 15 from 56:21 N. 4:38 E. (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 0828/23) Aircraft photograph shows this to have been a minesweeper (C. in C., Rosyth 1028/24 to Adty.)

Forces at Trondheim — One Battlecruiser, one cruiser, one destroyer flottila at Trondheim. Aircraft report. (C. in C., Rosyth 1010/23 to submarines).

E. boats — There are possibly E. boats off Beachy Head (C. in C., Portsmouth 0222/23).

Forces at Trondheim — Photographs at Trondheim 0919/23 show 3 cruisers in harbour; 1 NURNBERG class, 1 HIPPER class, and 1 probably Battlecruiser. Also two destroyers. (C. in C., Rosyth 1956/23 to C. in C. H.F.)
Note. I.C. 0491/40 says photographs show 1 HIPPER class, 1 NURNBERG class, either 1 battle cruiser or HIPPER class and 2 destroyers.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

7 M.Vs — 1 large and 6 small M.Vs Lindesnes 1145 (I.C. 0491/40).

4 M.Vs — 4 M.Vs stationary off Terschelling 1525 (I.C. 0491/40).

5 E. Boats — 10' N.W. of Terschelling Light at 1105/23 course 245° speed 10 knots.

Ymuiden Entrance obstructed — At 1230/23 aircraft observed 3 cargo-vessels about 2000 tons in harbour and 1 vessel obstructing entrance. (H.Q.B.C. 0235/24)

Shipping

French ships to be held — Cancel all previous instructions as to French shipping. French ships are not to be allowed to sail from any British port. (A.C.N.S.T. 1929/23).

Your are to be prepared to send into British ports when ordered a number of foreign M.Vs reported to be waiting off the coastt in your area. (C. in C., W.A. 2029/23 to C.S.2).

Ships for Swansea and port Talbot may call at Milford Haven for search. Other ports in Bristol Channel to Barry Roads (D. of L.D. 1958/23 to A.I.G.46).

Congestion at Falmouth — More than 5000 refugees, including foreign troops, have been landed at Falmouth during last 4 days. Request no more shipping shall be sent to the port at present. There are now 137 ships in the bay. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1318/23).

War Diary

23.6.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Weather

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea (West of 4° E.Long.	N. or N.W. fresh, strong locally.	Mainly overcast with light rain or showers.	Moderate.
E. of Long. 4° E.	S. or S.W. moderate to fresh.	Cloudy or overcast, occasional rain.	Moderate.
Horns Reef	S.E. or S. moderate veering.	Cloudy or overcast.	Moderate.
Channel	N.E. or E. moderate	Occasional rain.	Moderate in local haze.
Western Approaches	N. fresh to strong.	Showers.	Good.
Norwegian Coast (N. of 63° N.	E. or N.E. light to moderate.	Fair to cloudy.	Good.
S. of 63° N.	E. or S.E. moderate to fresh.	Overcast rain.	Moderate.

War Diary

23.6.1940
Sunday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

KHARTOUM — Damaged by burst torpedo air vessel. Was beached at Perim, salvage considered impossible. Casualties 1 K. 3 seriously W. Ships company proceeding to Aden in KANDAHAR, leaving a dismantling party at Perim. (D.C.N.S. & C. in C., E.I. 04412/24)

PATHAN — Patrol vessel. Seriously damaged by explosion 0100/23 off Bombay. Bombay port is closed pending investigation. Casualties include 2 officers and 3 ratings K, 22 W. seriously. It is hoped to get the ship into port (D.C.N.S. 294) (Ship sank 24/6 q.v.)

ELGO — Sunk by Italian aircraft see Mediterranean.

War Diary

23.6.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Tank

Importance attached to getting a specimen of new French tank B.I. BIS France to North Africa. Reportedsome are now at La Seyne. Request you will endeavour to arrange accordingly through whatever channel may be available. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O.C.N.A., 1040/23)

Evacuations Port Vendres etc.,

KEPPEL reports by telephone embarkation of Czech troops proceeding in French ships. About 3000 will remain to be evacuated in British ships GOODWOOD and NORTHMOOR. About 2000 more retire on coast for whom accommodation is required in British ships, but situation uncertain. At Port Vendres hope to embark all Czechs and Poles, about 3,000, in GENERAL CHANZY and APAPPA p.m. today. Intend directing to Sete any British ships surplus to requirements at Port Vendres. (From ? to Admty 1121/23)

Gibraltar Contestion

My 1337/21. Request urgent decsisions, harbour becoming congested. (Conbard, Gibraltar, 1515/23)

SALTERSDATE now in Oran, to be completed with fuel, water and provisions for 14 days before she proceeds to Gib. May not be possible to transfer passengers to other ships here for onward passage. (F.O.C.N.A., to B.N.L.O. in French battleship DUNKERQUE, 1934/23)

Las Palmas

French report ~~tah~~ that s.s. ROMEO and CIUDAD ALICANTE arrived Las Palmas 15 May and discharged 1200 troops and war material, divided between Grand Canary, Teneriffe, Lenzarote and Ifni. (C. in C., S.A. to Admty. and F.O.I. Gib., 1851/23)

French Convoy

At 1915/23. French destroyer LA BATAILLEUSE passed W to E escorting ships in Convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1924/23)

DORSETSHIRE Sails fo Dakar

Admty. 0252/23. DORSETSHIRE sailes 0600/23 for Dakar at 24 knots. WATCHMAN expected arrive Casablanca 1430/23 (F.O.C.N.A. 0612A/23 to C. in C., S.A.)

JEAN BART Proceeding to Casablanca

JEAN BART is expected at Casablanca. Take all possible action to impress on French Authorities our intention to fight on and express hope they will do so too. (A.C.N.S.F. 1939/23 to WATCHMAN)

War Diary

23.6.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Submarines — Positions at 0600/24 (V.A.S. 1754/23)

Gibraltar Overcrowded — Serious situation arising with large numbers of civilians and evacuated Troops arriving from French Mediterranean Ports. Food reserves are being seriously depleted; imperative that ships expected with Czech and Polish Troops be diverted elsewhere forthwith even if only for food, fuel and water. (F.O.C.N.A. 1144/23 to Admty) Presence of civilian refugees a menace in case of air raid or attack and I am forced to confine as many as possible to ships. (Governor, Gibraltar, 2125/23)

South Atlantic

HERMES to remain at Dakar — HERMES is to remain at Dakar. (D.O.D. 0403/23 to C. in C., S.A.)

Your 1612/21. You should arrange for supplies as necessary where vessels are without funds. D. of S.T. 2312/23 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

RICHELIEU Arrived at Dakar — Arrived at Dakar: MALOJA, RICHELIEU, and French Destroyer FLEURET (C. in C., S.A. 1706/23 to Admty)

Knowledge of allegiance of French Mediterranean Fleet would be og greatest value in persuading Governor Dakar to accept H.M. Govt's offer. (HERMES 1350/23 to Admty)

Oiler — Oiler LUCIGEN may be retained for the present (D. of S., to C. in C., S.A. 1546/23)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA / PRETORIA CASTLE — Movements ordered. (R.A.S.A.D. 1103Z/23)

French Telephones — Censor, Freetown, has held up 2 telegrams from Government, Bordeaux, for confirmation from London in view of B.B.C. announcement that British Govt. no longer recognises Government at Bordeaux.
D. of S.T. 1826/22. Request first ship of Convoy C.M. to complete discharge may be cleaned and sailed for Dar-es-Salaam independently to embark approx 500 aliens and 50 guards for Durban. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1202/23 to N.O.I.C. Uilindini)

War Diary

23.6.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Movements

French Destroyers

Third Division Torpedo craft comprising French Destroyers LA FORTUNE, BASQUE, FORBIN, 0600/13, sailed to-day for Alexandria (N.O.I.C. Haifa 0840C/23 to Admty)

General

Situation, Palma

Telegram 11 June 23 from Consul, Palma. Consider any material change unlikely until negotiations between France, Germany and Italy concluded. All classes dread results of war for Spain except a few Falangists who unfortunately wield the power. (Palma, Mallorca, 1130/23)

French Attitude

An assured of Mittelhauser's determination to fight on. Only sign of defeat which has reached me concerns senior air staff officers. This does not reflect general feeling. All that is wanted is a firm lead from a responsible French Government in London or Algiers. Mittelhauser has just sent following telegram to C. in C., Mediterranean. My sincere thanks for cover afforded by your fleet and my cordial wish announcement early Anglo-French Naval victory that may be won under your orders. (No 8 (Jones) Military Mission, 1315/23, to N.O)

Evacuation, Middle East

Evacuation of white women and children from Middle East not regarded with favour. Reasons. (War Office to C. in C. M.E. 2110/23)

Roumanian Refugees

Not to be allowed to sail without orders from me. (C. in C., Med., 1325/23)

U.S. and Contraband

Messages intercepted by Air Mail Censor indicate United States Ships EXPRESS and EXOCHORDA due New York 24th and June 28th respectively loaded Italian cargo at Genoa after Italy declared war thereby presumably contravening United States Regulations. Understand cargoes not yet paid for and may be subject to confiscation. (C. in C., A.W.I)

War Diary

23.6.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- Air

Raid on Malta

Seventeen aircraft including 2 fighters attacked Malta at 1300/23. Slight civilian injuries and damage, but no military casualties or damage. One enemy Fighter shot down and the pilot taken prisoner. (D.S. 293) (F.O.I.C., Malta, 2121/23) (Governor, Malta, 2331/23)

ELGO Sunk

According to foreign reports the Swedish ELGO, 1888 tons, was bombed by Italian aircraft off the Algerian Coast at dawn on 23 June and sank. (D.S. 293)

Aircraft Markings

Black and white colour scheme for fighters being retained this command. (H.Q., Malta, 1225/22, to A.M., received from Air Min., 0920/23)

Enemy Intelligence

Triest.

Aircraft report no Warships in harbour except what appeared to be one large cruiser; and a lot of M/V's in northern half of harbour. (N.A. Belgrade 1745/22 to C. in C., Med)

War Diary

23.6.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Hospital Ships — Situation. Taking up of AMRA to be deferred (D. of F., 1842/23)

Japanese Vessels — Governor General reports suspicious presence of 6 big Japanese steamers cruising for last 48 hours about 80 miles E. of Tamatave. Colombo and Capetown advised. (Brit. Consul, Antananarivo 1630/23)

Routes — Reason not to be given for diverted route if enemy warships reported in narrow waters, such as Straits of Hozmuz, Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb or Mozambique Channel (C. in C., 1541Z/23)

Air Operations — Bombing attack Macaca Aerodrome. Reconnaissance continue to be prevented by weather. Lack of meteorological information prevents use of any clear periods. (A.H.Q., Aden, 1740/23)

China

French Vessels — 322. Penang departure June 22. H.M.S. DANAE special purpose; arrival June 21 French Cruiser LAMOTTE-PICQUET wearing flag C. in C., departure French sloop ADMIRAL CHARNER; 22 June, arrival French armed merchant cruiser ARAMIS, departure H.M.S. DAUNTLESS for Singapore; Singapore arrival (S.O.I., Singapore, 0533Z/23)

War Diary

23.6.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Suspicious Tanker — Large tanker, nationality unknown, travelling S.E., passed Georgetown, Cayman Island, 0830/23. Description. (Chief, Grand Cayman, 1030/23)

Italian Tankers — Consul, Tampiêrs, reports strong probability that some Italian tankers in Gulf Ports may be transferred to Mexican Govt. is substitution for Mexican tankers under construction in Italy not delivered. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1123/23)

French Ship — Colón reports OREGON now at Balboa bound Havre, held up, no funds available for transit fees. (S.O.I., Kinston, 1445/23)

Norwegian Crews — Reply to Admty. 1922/19, re training of Norwegian crews in Canada. (C.N.S., Ottawa 1206/23)

Australia & New Zealand

CANBERRA — Escorting STRATHMORE with 918 troops. Movements. On arrival at Capetown to come under orders of C. in C., S.A. (A.C.N.B. 0615/23 to C. in C., S.A.)

Mines off North Island — Moored mines were cut im 36.29' S 175.58'E(off North Island, New Zealand) 23/6. This is in the E approach to Aukland and near south bound shipping route (I.C. 0491/40)

War Diary

23.6.1940
Sunday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BACICIN PADRE — Curacao reports left Puerto Cabello last evening and anchored in Bay. Curacao reports Walters sailing 0300 to-day to investigate. (S.O.I., Kingston, 0058/23, 0426/23)

BURANO — Consul, Teneriffe, reports at Santa Cruz, Las Palmas cargo crude oil from Ambra. (B. 3.) (S.O.I., Malta 1247/23)

War Diary

23.6.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

HILDA — Finnish 1144 tons. 11 Survivors landed at Santander, Spain to-day report the ship sunk by German submarine 90'N of Castro Urdiales. (D.S. 293) 43.54'N 3.12'W ?23/6 Ass. Press Santander report (I.C. 0491/40)

ELI KNUDSEN — Norwegian. Sunk at about 1940/23 140 miles W.N.W. of Ushant and 38 survivors landed by SANDWICH. Suggested that this ship and British Tanker SAN FERNANDO may have been sunk by sabotage time bomb and not by torpedo. (D.S. 293) ARABIS 2320/23, C. in C., W.A. 2042/23, 2324/23, 0119/24. Summary of evidence as to cause of damage and sinking (C. in C., W.A. 1711/23) SANDWICH arrived with 17 survivors from SAN FERNANDO and 38 from ELI KNUDSEN (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1710/23) Position 49.29 N., 8.38 W at 2042/23.

RANDSFJORD — Norwegian (3999 tons) Sunk by mine or torpedo off Lands End (D.S. 293)

Submarines Reported

0342	59.30'N., 1.18'E. Aircraft report (Donibristle 0646/23)
0353	59.30'N., 1.46'E Aircraft report (269 Sqdn. 0353/23)(C. in C., Rosyth 0752/23)
0729	B.S.W.Y. 3046 Aircraft report (254 Sqdn 0729/23
1014 & 1108	49.15'N., 15.20'W., D/F report Unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1051/23 to C. in C., W.A.) (I.C. 0491/40, says 13.20'W)
1155	57.5'N., 4.38' E., Course 130, speed 6 knots Aircraft report. (Donibristle 1602/23) (I.C., 0491/40 says 58.5'N., and "possibly British"
1911	57.20'N. 7.E. D/F report Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1941/23)
1940	49.21'N., 9.23'W. (A.C.W.A. 2036/23 to IMOGEN) Reliable fix. Ships ordered to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 2039/23, 2042/23)
1033	7 U-boats believed close Gironde to intercept traffic to North Africa (R.A. BEAGLE 1033/23 to Admty)
2238	52.N 12.W Position indefinite (I.C. 0491/40)
0156	A/C 2146/22 Amend position of S/M to 60.10 N., 1.05'E (C. in C., Rosyth, 0156/23)

War Diary

23.6.1940.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Estimated dispositions (D.D.I.C. 1252/23)

Submarines Attacked

Italian U-Boat Sunk

By gunfire from destroyer 246° Perpim High Light 11 miles at 0300 G.M.T. 23/6. This is presumed to be finale of hunt reported in my 1304/22 (See also KANDAHAR 0955/22)

Request immediate permission to publish. (C. in C., E.I. 03442/23)

0342 — 59.30 N., 1.18'E., by Aircraft. No results observed.

2213 — ARABIS attacked contact 49.21N., 8.47 W (B.3.) (I.C., 0491/40)

Submarines Reported-Mediterranean

1600 — 37.10'N 3.15'E (I.C. 0491/40) Reported by Algiers Radio (Algiers Radio, 1944/23)

24.6.40.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

France.

The Admiralty view of the intentions of the French with regard to their Fleet is that under no circumstances will it be allowed to fall into German or Italian hands; if a strong lead is given it might fight on, as Darlan has urged; but the issue will depend on orders given by Admiral Esteva. Meanwhile Admiral Godfrey in the Mediterranean has been ordered by the French Admiralty to cease all hostilities and return to French ports.BNLO Brest in WATCHMAN at Casablanca reports the French Navy will take orders from the French Government only: the Senior Officer is preparing to demilitarise the Fleet to support the Petain Government. JEAN BART is being commissioned at Casablanca with hands arriving from Brest. At 1900 British Naval Liaison Officers at Oran left for Gibraltar in the French destroyer TYPHON in accordance with orders received from the French Admiralty. CALCUTTA (flag of CS 2) and 5 destroyers are near St. Jean de Luz.
Evacuation of about 6000 Polish troops from St. Jean de Luz continued during the day. Only one ship at a time could enter the harbour, owing to the swell. HARVESTER escorted ARANDORA STAR which sailed with 3000 Polish Army and Air Force personnel and a few British refugees, and ETTRICK with 1100 British refugees and 300 Poles. Ships taking part in the evacuation from Bayonne and St. Jean de Luz were bombed during the day. Several U-boats are believed to be off the Gironde for the purpose of interfering with traffic to North West Africa and evacuation plans.
VELOX at Port Vendres, stated that there were 3000 Polish troops and that the authorities did not allow evacuation of French forces. All quays are strongly guarded and no French civilians are allowed to leave. VELOX left for Gibraltar with British subjects.

KEPPEL reports the embarkation of 3000 Czechs in the Sete area and that no more ships are required. She will remain, however, with the last 2 British merchant ships to embark more Czechs who are expected.

Air.

3 Blenheims left at 0315/24 for reconnaissance over Trondheim, where a battle cruiser and 2 cruisers were seen yesterday and Stavanger. The reconnaissance failed due to bad weather. At 1225 another a/c left to reconnoitre Bergen and Stavanger, but did not return.

An a/c on reconnaissance off the Dutch coast reported 3 2000 ton m.v's in Ymuiden harbour and one m.v. of about 4000 tons sunk in the entrance.
Gardening was undertaken.
A special raid on New Waterway (Rotterdam) with "W" bombs cancelled owing to enemy raids interfering with squadron's take off.

24.6.40.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Italian Hostilities.

LUIGI GALVANI — Italian s/m was rammed and sunk by FALMOUTH. 0001Z/24 in the Straits of Ormuz.

MACALLE — The Italian s/m discovered by the R.A.F. 22/6 sunk off Barra Musa, Hebir Island (Red Sea) has been identified as the MACALLE. She apparently sank on 14/6 after striking a reef; about 30 of the crew were seen on the reef, but when a tug with an armed party located the s/m on 22/6 the men had disappeared.

U-boat at Ceuta. — Three or possibly four of the force of 8 Italian s/m's based on Massawa have now been destroyed or captured.
Air reconnaissance today failed to locate the damaged Italian U-boat in Ceuta harbour.

War Diary

24.6.1940.
Monday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Your 0117/24 following are at Casablanca JEAN BART submarine parent ship JULES VERNE, destroyer EPEE Despatch vessel AILETTE, Dest. LE HARDI, Despatch vessel SOLEIL, Sloop D'ENTRECASTEAUX. M/S BATAILLEUSE, Surveying vessel AMIRAL MOUCHEZ, submarine CASABIANCA, SFAX, SUDI-FERRUCH, PONCELET, PERSEE, AJAX, THETIS, CERCE, CALYPSO, ORPHEE, AMAZONE, ANTIOPE, MEDUSE, AMPHITRITE, LA SIBYLLE, EL KANTARA, VICTOR, SCHOOL CHEF MAMELUK S/m BEVEZIERS, Sloop D'IBERVILLE expected to arrive here tomorrow. Four A.M.C's en route Casablanca to Dakar. Following sailed today Destroyers FOUGUEUX, FRONDEUR. (Casablanca 2228/24 to D.N.I.)

LANSQUENET

French warships at Le Verdon 23/6 large destroyer LANSQUENET newly completed and 2 escort ships. A cruiser could support destroyers in case of more French warships collecting at Le Verdon. (R.A. BEAGLE 1054/24 to Admty)

XX See Below

ATTITUDE OF FRENCH

Urging need for formation of authoritative French Government in Algiers without delay. Prestige of De Gaulle insufficient to carry masses with him and presence in London facilitates German propaganda that he is under British influence. Already false instructions continually received. Suggest broadcast by Prime Minister, but voice of new cadre French Govt. should first be heard otherwise danger suspected too great British influence. (N.O.S (Jones) Mission 1710/24 to C. in C., M.E.)

Not much fight in Civil Administration from Resident General downwards. Estimated partly due instructions and partly personal weakness. Censor permits publication of anything conducive in slightest degree to strengthen will of Colonies to resist. (B.N.L.O. Sud. 0744/23)

XX My 1400 Part 3.
(d) He states categorically that his orders from Admiral Darlan were that under no circumstances would French Fleet be handed over intact.
(e) To sum up, it seems if Armistice with Italy is signed French sea power will be withdrawn dismissed and conditions of Armistice will be carried out provided former does not include handing over the French Fleet intact.
Part 4 follows (F.O.C.N.A. 1230)

War Diary

24.6.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Defence of Isle of Wight

Batteries which cover beaches at west end of the Island are exposed to air attack Possible advantage to enemy of gaining Island and destroying batteries from land ward. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1817/24)

Re guarding against interference with booms and net defences by small vessels which succeed in approaching unobserved or by sabotage (A.C.N.S. (H) 2233/24 to all C's in C. & F.O's ashore at home and abroad)

Rye

Intend to block Reasons etc., (V.A. Dover 1521/24)

Reconnaissance measures to be investigated

It is considered that a sea-borne expedition will probably approach U.K. during conditions of low clouds when visual reconnaissance is impossible and that there is, therefore a serious risk that our existing reconnaissance measures may break down at a vital moment. It is desirable, therefore, to investigate immediately some alternative to visual reconnaissance. (C.I.C. Reports 25)

Operations

Operation Collar

Operation Collar may be carried out at your discretion. (D.O.D.H. 1023/24 to V.A. Dover)

"Train Ferries"

Investigate ships reported as train ferries in 50.50'N 1.31'E at 1715, course 190° 2 to 3 knots. (N.O.I/C Dover 1816/24 to BOREAS) Sighted by aircraft. Description etc., (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1855/24) position of vessel at 1929 50.52.5'N 1.27.5'E course 180° (N.O.I/C Dover 1940/24)

War Diary

24.6.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

France

Gironde Oil Installations

Very important to destroy oil installations Bec d'Ambes, Blaye, Pauillac, also floating dock Pauillac. 2 destroyers could do it by point blank bombardment.

St. Jean de Luz

Your 2054/ (requesting confirmation that BEAGLE should proceed to St. Jean de Luz) Return to U.K. (F.O.2 C.S. 0034/24 to R.A. BEAGLE)

0800 all embarkation ceased 2100/23 owing to swell, started again 0700/24 with ARANDORA STAR inside breakwater. Latest figures appear to be Polish 5000 including armies remainder as in my 1940/23 corrected by my 2145/23 (S.N.O. St. Jean de Luz 0820/24 to C.S. 2.)

C. in C., W.A. 1318/21[x]. It is proving quite impracticable to carry out embarkation by nationality or type of person being embarked. Endeavour will be made to indicate the general outline of what each ship carried. (S.N.O. St. Jean de Luz 1035/24 to C.S. 2)

[x] Evacuation of troops of various nationalities etc.,

Your 1145/24. Situation 1430. 3400 Poles embarked, 2600 remaining.

Grignez to Boulogne

H.M.S. BOREAS proceeded within about 3.5 miles of Boulogne and reports no ships under way between Cape Grignez and Boulogne at about 2015. Considerable artillery opposition encountered. H.M.S. BOREAS and H.M.S. CODRINGTON returning to patrols. Capt.(D)1. 2040/24)

Cutting Cables

Your 1943/19. Brest-Fayal was cut on 22/6 in 49.34' 46" N 05. 5' 30" W. (2) It is hoped to sail ALBERT 25/6 to cut Brest-Cape Cod Cable. (3) Your 1907/18 ALBERT is now considerably overdue boiler cleaning. Propose MARIE LOUISE MACKAY should carry out some of these operations as soon as escort is available (C.in C., W.A. 1127/24 to Admty)

War Diary

24.6.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS.

E-Boats

ALBUERA
Sunk

Torpedoed and sunk 2' S.W. of Lydd Light Float at 0015/24. Five missing. (North Foreland 0339/24) Considered sunk by either one or two E-boats (V.A. Dover 1205/24 to Adty) Torpedoed and sunk by E-boat at 0118 two miles S.W. Lydd Light Float. 29 survivors picked up by Dutch MORTERE (V.A. Dover 0900/24, N.O.I/C Dover 1210/24)

War Diary

24.6.40
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

A/C's. in JEAN L.D. Imperative that A/C's from JEAN L.D. are landed as soon as possible. As last resource force may be used, in which case Adty. should be informed (1st Lord. 2151/24)

Rc. of Stavanger Reconnaissance of Stavanger by 3 Blenheims will be carried out A.M. today. (C. in C.Rosyth 0854/24 to C. in C.H.F.)

Ymuiden obstructed. A/C report a M/V about 4,000 tons apparently sunk near Entrance, and three other M/V's about 2000 tons alongside to S. and E. of harbour. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1008/24).

M.V. attacked. 0635 1 camouflaged small M.V., 5 miles N. Kristiansund North attacked by A/C which obtained near misses 63°12' N., 7°40' E., (Donibristle 1000/24)

Minesweeper. Destroyer reported by A/C 0828/23 in 57°21' N., 4°38' E., has been identified from photographs as a minesweeper (I.C.0492/40)

Enemy Air activity.

ORMONDE — Attacked by A/C 47°36' N., 6°54' W. (Lands End 0949/24)

CLAN ROSS — Attacked by A/C 30 miles N.N.W. of St. Jean de Luz (Intercept by Scapa, 1435/24) 44°0' N., 2°0' W., bombed by 3 planes (CLAN ROSS 1455 G.M.T./24)

War Diary

24.6.40
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Unidentified explosions. Explosions are reported at 0330/24 twelve miles East of Spurn Point. (I.C. 0491/40)

2 mines were exploded today near N. Goodwin Lt.V. (I.C.0492/40).

B.S.18. B.S.18. Air Escort will not be provided. (C. in C. Nore 2056/24 to D. 20)

Gardening. See Air Min. D.S. 34/

Minefield in Irish Sea. Re. proposal to lay minefield across southern end of Irish Sea. Reasons why it is considered proposal should not be proceeded with (C. In C.W.A.1818/24)

Orkneys. My 1146. Channel between Scrubster and Dunnet Head has been swept with L.L. and Cropesa no further sweeping considered necessary (A.C.O.S.1951/24)

Enemy Intelligence

Clydes Patrol Report. 1655/9 off Fro Havet machine gunned by Heinkel before submerged. No casualties or important damage.

10/6 64°27'N., 09°27' E., sighted masts of pocket battleship and Hipper Class cruiser bearing 065 rang 12 miles course 300 1435 made enemy report T.O.O. 1400.

0645/11 64°11' N., 09°39' E., sighted mast and top of ship believed to be pocket battleship against Land off Vaagsoen Island, course 217°. Made enemy report T.O.O. 0645. It was now clear enemy shipping used inshore route from Trondjheim, emerging in vicinity of Kya Lighthouse.

2209/20 64°43' N., 9°52' E. sighted two large ships in line abreast 2 miles apart ascreened by one destroyer, course about 350°. CLYDE was fine on port bow of starboard wing ship, range 8 miles. Sea rough. Visibility poor. Heavy ships considered to be one battle cruiser and one pocket battleship. 2232 fired salvo at battle cruiser, range 4000 yards Two minutes fifty five seconds after firing first torpedo violent explosion was heard, submarine went deep after firing. 2242 destroyer counter attacked with pattern of eight depth charges which did no damage, but submarine had gone to 250 feet after firing with angle down by the stern, and some distortion occurred in after end which bent four inch steel pillar.

Heavy sea and poor visibility made identification of target very difficult, but high bow was momentarily observed, giving impression of SCHARNHORST.

0100 surfaced and made enemy report 2235/20 C.V.A.(S) 1756/24.

War Diary

24.6.40
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Ctd.)

Kiel Fiord. 53°30' N., 10°20' E. A/C observed One Battleship and Four Destroyers stationary at 0140/24. (I.C.0491/40)

SCHARNHORST Press message from America states that Germans admit SCHARNHORST is damaged. She is probably now at Kiel (I.C.0492/40).

Night 23/24. East of Alte Mellum, at 0110 one M.V. about 4000 tons at anchor.

Ships at Rotterdam Etc. At Rotterdam. 0825 three large cargo ships at anchor. At position fifty miles at 120 degrees from Lowestoft at 0950, two trawlers heading South ten lengths apart in line astern. Each ship had paravane or trawl on starboard quarter. Fifty miles at 090 degrees from Lowestoft, 1503 hours three trawlers, three lengths apart, leading ship heading N.W., remainder in line astern heading N.E. at Heyst. 1430 hours a grey ship, destroyer size, stationary off shore. At Bruges, 1600 hours very many barges stationary in canal N.W. of town. (H.Q.B.C.0253/25).

Two unidentified ships reported 5' S.E. from St. Catherines at 0001/24. Approximate course E. (C. in C.Portsmouth 0322/24 to GARDENIA, and 0132/24 to VIVACIOUS)

At 0215 passed one large cargo vessel and one cargo Liner both darkened at 50°30' N., 0°25' W. Course about 080, 10 Knots. (VIVACIOUS 0250/24 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

German Plans Invasion From German sources, Turks expect attack on England beginning July 3. Phases from Trondheim, Rotterdam and Cherbourg, with mining operations both ends of English Channel. Attacks by all forces land, sea and air, also parachute. Also attack on Gibraltar and North Africa through Spain. (Adm. Sir Howard Kelly, 1905/24)

TIRPITZ in Wilhelmshaven 24/6 in advanced state of construction.

SCHEER in Bauhaven.
Some barge activity Langeoog (A/C report P.D.V.I. 0040/25)

GNEISENAU C. in C., Rosyth's 1956/23. From photographs consider first ship mentioned is battle cruiser, probably GNEISENAU. (D.D.I.C. 1956/24)

Sweden Swedish Govt. have decided to accede German demand that goods in transit through Sweden to Norway should no longer be subjected to close examination. (D.N.I. 2014/24)

War Diary

24.6.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

M.L. Will not be ready to sail at earliest before 1800/27. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1831/24 to Admty)

French Ships Held Application for French Ships to sail has been made by French Consul and has been refused. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1400/24 to Adlty)

French Ships may be sailed in Exceptional case Notwithstanding Adty. 1929/23, you have discretion to allow French ships to sail in any exceptional case where you think it desirable in allied interests, e.g. ships engaged in trade with neighbouring French possessions, and provided you are satisfied that intended voyage will be carried out. For your information by a clause in the Armistice terms French merchant ships outside France are to be recalled or if this is not possible ordered to neutral ports. (Adty. 2319/24 to all C's in C., & F.O's at Home & Abroad)

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

PATHAN (damaged 23/6) Sank early 24/6 evidence is tending to eliminate probability of internal explosion. (C. in C., E.I. 15422/24)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Polish Ships ISKRA, WILIA — Chief of Polish Navy requests that Polish auxiliary vessels ISKRA and WILIA, now at Port Lyautey near Casablanca, shall not be allowed to fall into enemy hands. If it is impracticable for them to be moved to a British port he requests they may be sunk. (D.O.D.(F) 2249/24 to F.O.C.N.A.).

DUNERA — DUNERA to be sailed for Casablanca as soon as possible to embark 4,000 Polish airmen. (D.O.D.(F) to F.O.C.N.A. 2231/24). Sailed (F.O.C.N.A. 0514/25).

ATHLONE CASTLE — Adty. 1610/23. ATHLONE CASTLE ordered to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 0957/24).

Refugees, Gibraltar — Naval authorities advise me of possibility of a further large number of refugees arriving here from Marseilles. Weather conditions and need for provisioning and refuelling ships are delaying onward passages. In interests of defence I cannot allow any more to land here. (Governor, Gib., to W.O. 2000/23, recd. from W.O. 0710/24).

Evacuations, Oran — Adty. 0121/24. French GENERAL CHANZY sailed Oran 0900 with 1200 Turks. French PRESIDENT DAL PIAZ sails 0800/25 for Oran with 1100 (? Poles). Am evacuating remainder of Poles and Czechs in APAPA, also 200 civilians, including about 60 British. Propose sailing APAPA for Gibraltar unescorted 0800/25. (VELOX to F.O.C.N.A. 1130/24). My 1130. Sailing APAPA Gibraltar 2000/24, unescorted (VELOX 1532/24).

Evacuations, French Ports — Your 0121, para 1. DOUGLAS is requested to represent strongly to French necessity of replenishing ships at French ports before arrival Gibraltar and to inform VELOX and KEPPEL which ports are available. Para 3, it is not yet clear how many troops and civilians are to be expected, but if it does not exceed 6,000 there should be sufficient transport with ATHLONE CASTLE and NEURALIA. (F.O.C.N.A. to Adty., 1155/24).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic (Contd.)

Casablanca — Propose sending Capt. Holland by air to Casablanca. He will be able to clarify situation and help in pressing our views. (R.A., Carriers, 1020/24 to Adty.).

Algiers — Situation 1200/24. French warships, etc. (B.N.L.O., Algiers, 1615/24).

Reynaud Cabinet — Former Ministers Reynaud Cabinet arrived here with wives and families, about 50 in all, making for England (barring declaration to resist in Morocco). Urgently asking for transport to Gibraltar. Suggest KEBIR due tomorrow be instructed to wait or put at their disposal. (Consul-General, Rabat, 2340/24 to Gibraltar).

Evacuations, Sete, Vendres — KEPPEL reports no more ships required at Sete. VELOX can accommodate British subjects now in Port Vendres. Attitude of French authorities, Sete, Vendres, rendered embarkation of French forces impossible. All quays strongly guarded. No French civilians allowed to leave. (VELOX to Adty. and F.O.C.N.A. 2301/24).

South Atlantic

MOOLTAN — To act as escort to Convoy S.L.37. On relief by (? DELIGHT) in Western Approaches July 9, MOOLTAN to proceed independently to Plymouth adjusting time of arrival daylight hours July 10. (C. in C., S.A. 1157/24).

French Cameroons — Report on French attitude, (favourable). (A.M.C. BULOLO 1820/24). Governor-General announces intention to stand firm and maintain integrity in close co-operation with Nigeria (Vice-Consul, Duala, 1155/24).

CITY OF SIMLA — Adty. 1916/15. Propose to cancel trooping programme for CITY OF SIMLA and order vessel to proceed on normal voyage with cargo to U.K. (N.L.O. Capetown, 1602/24).

QUEEN OF BERMUDA — Expects to arrive Port Stanley am/29/6. (PRETORIA CASTLE to RASAD 2110Z/24).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

South Africa — Union authorities will not allow native troops (? French) to land in South Africa. (S.O.I. Capetown 1500/24). Position is serious. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1650/24).

Mediterranean - Policy

Mittelhauser and Beirut garrison determined to fight and not take orders from Bordeaux. (No 8 (Jones) Mil. Mission, 2000/24).

B.N.L.O.'s Withdrawn — B.N.L.O. Bizerta reports French Adty. orders all B.N.L.O.'s be withdrawn forthwith. Leaving shortly for Gibraltar, Syko called in 1660/24. (F.O.I.C., Malta, 2101/24).

Mediterranean - General

French Units — Report positions of French naval units known to you. (N.I.D. 2 to Oran, Marseilles, Toulon, 0120/24). List at Casablanca (Casablanca 2228/24).

Turkish Facilities — Turkish reactions to the situation satisfactory. Propose release of fullest information of transfer of French war vessels to British ports and of aircraft and other forces. They will be required for propaganda and any information as to some American aircraft in England most desirable. (Adm. Sir Howard Kelly 1905/24). (See also Enemy Intelligence).

French Aircraft — Bona reports 25 Dewoitine aircraft arrived from France. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1205/24).

Publicity — News of successes against enemy U-boats is not to be made public locally until released by the Adty. Information given locally should not go beyond the text of the communique. (D.P.D. to C. in Cs Med. & E.I. 1942/24).

Oilers — Movements (cancelling his 1613/22). (C. in C., Med., 1933/24).

War Diary

24.6.40.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Ormuz — My 1423/20, para 2. Normal sailings through Straits of Ormuz have been resumed. (C. in C., E.I. 09462/24).

News Propaganda — Re propaganda value of sunk Italian submarine or similar naval exploit on station being enhanced if released locally before B.B.C. or Reuter. (C. in C., E.I. 12162/24).

Aliens movement — D. of S.T. 2143/22 and N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1202/23. As troops for Berbera will not be ready before July 10, submit TAKLIWA proceed to Dar-es-Salaam for aliens movement, returning to Mombasa for Berbera movement. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini 08092/24).

Madagascar — Message from Governor General refers to menace of 7 Japanese cargo steamers which for a week have been hanging about within 100 miles of coasts of Madagascar and Reunion, which have no means, naval or air, to deal with this menace. (A.M.C. BULOLO, 2035/24 to C. in C., S.A.).

Air Escort — Propose to do without air escort East of 47:30 E., (S.N.O. Red Sea, 22052/24).

America & West Indies

French Bullion — EMILE BERTIN has on board large quantity of bullion which she has refused to deposit with Bank of Canada despite considerable pressure.

Suggest you should be personally satisfied that there is no chance of this finding its way back to occupied France (C.N.S. Ottawa 1446/24 to C. in C. A.W.I.).

Report direct to Admiralty repeated C. in C., A.W.I. immediately you know whereabouts of French cruiser EMILE BERTIN. (C. in C., A.W.I. to DUNEDIN 2252/24).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies (Contd.)

DUNEDIN to Watch EMILE BERTIN — Adty. 0404/23 and 1326/23. Return Martinique tomorrow 25th, excuse to Admiral Robert being you wish to report results of visit promptly. (C. in C., A.W.I. 0932/24 to DUNEDIN). DUNEDIN now at Guadeloupe returning Martinique 25/6. Relations with French very friendly. Fully concur with Governor, Trinidad, telegram to Sec. of State 428. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0922/24 to Adty.).

Norwegian Whale Ships — Your 1630/20. Norwegian whale catchers. Arrangements for use of (Min. of Shipping to Supt. S.T.O., Kingston, Jamaica, 2114/24).

FURIOUS — On completion of loading FURIOUS is to sail for U.K. (Adty. 2232/24).

FURIOUS can be ready to sail am/27/6 with 12 Curtiss P.36, 10 Brewster fighters, 5 Curtiss S.B.C.'s and 15 Northrops. If sailing is delayed more Curtiss and Brewster can be taken in place of Northrops. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1143/24).

China.

Minelaying — French sloop AMIRAL CHARNER left Saigon 21/6 to lay mines Kamrank Bay area. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 1002Z/24).

C. in C. — Intend to sail from Hong Kong in KANIMBLA pm/25/6 (C. in C., China 1117Z/24).

ALIPORE — My 1129/15. Appears fire not due to spontaneous combustion. Strong suspicion of sabotage. (S.O.I., Shanghai, 0249Z/24).

War Diary

24.6.1940.
Monday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LAURA LAURO	Arrived Ceara 23/6, stated bound for Baltimore in ballast. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1029/24) (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1509/24)
AIDA LAURO	Arrived Fernanbuco 23/6. (S.O.I. Freetown 1029/24)
BACININ PADRE	Tanker, at Puerto Cabello, left the port and anchored in the bay p.m. 22/6 (I.C. 0491/40)
XXVIII OTTOBRE	Taken refuge at Puket, Thailand. (I.C. 0491/40)
CELLINA	Prize, left Gibraltar in convoy H.G. 35 (I.C., 0491/40)
EURO	Sequestered at Hampton Road on a/c of debt to Asiatic Petroleum Co. (I.C. 0491/40)
FRISCO	Arrived Ceara 20/6. No sign of activity in Axial ships at Santos. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1509/24)
JOLE FASSIO	Caracas reports being sent from La Guaira to Puerto Cabello today inside territorial waters. (S.O.I. Kingston, 0829/24)
CONTE BIANCAMANO	At Balboa. Hearing of debt case to Royal Netherlands S.S. Co. Fixed for July 6. (I.C., 0492/40)
Tankers, Mexico	Tampico reports strong probability that some Italian tankers now in Gulf ports may be transferred to Mexican Government in lieu of others being built in Italy for Mexico but not delivered. There are 8 Italian tankers at Tampico and 1 at Vera Cruz. (I.C., 0491/40)

War Diary

24.6.40.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships Attacked

BELGRAVIAN — Torpedoed in 47:32 N., 04:54 W. at 1243 (A.C.W.A. 1257/24) 60 miles W. by N. of Belle Isle. (A.S.W.D. 293) Cancel my 1251. BEAGLE close BELGRAVIAN and investigate. (A.C.W.A. 1324/24).

ALBUERA — British (3477 tons) sunk in Dungeness Roads 0015/24 either by enemy M.T.B. or mine. 5 of crew missing. Ship still afloat. Aircraft report convoy HX49A in NF284243 at 0600 (C. in C., Nore 0710/24).

CATHRINE — Estonian. Attacked 0100/24, 50:8 N., 14:0 W.

Submarines Reported

2338/23 — D.F., unreliable fix. 52:0 N., 12:0 W., probably U-boat (N.N.I. 0015/24).

1015 — D.F. unreliable fix, 49:20 N., 4:25 W., probably U-boat. (D.D.I.C., 1040/24).

1254 — Submarines sighted 154° 10 miles Tuskar Rock. 52:06 N., 06:08W. (ROYAL SCOTSMAN, 1254/24) (Portland Bill Radio 1359/24).

0407 — By aircraft, submarine submerged in position 59:58 N., 3:00 E. course northerly. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0530/24).

0001 — Your 1241/23 (ordering MACKAY and WREN to hunt submarine off Gironde). Estimated position at 0001/24, 45:46 N., 01:42 W. (WREN to C.S.2 1712/23).

1143 G.M.T. — A.F. message 47:32 N., 4:54 W. (D.D.I.C., 1351/24).

1205 — 34:42 N., 6:22 W. bearing 0° course 0° (French warship 1205/24).

Report of periscope off Holburn Head indicates possibility of submarine having laid mines in Thusso Bay. Channel between Scrabster and Dunnet Head being searched and sailing of ST. NINIAN has been delayed until completed. (A.C.O.S. 1146/24).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

1255 — 53:08 N., 5:1 W., reliable fix. Periscope reported by Dutch aircraft WITHERINGTON hunting. SEARBOROUGH and COSSACK ordered to attack. (C. in C., W.A. 1426/24).

1146 — 58:37 N., 3:32 W., in Thusso Bay. Periscope reported, source of report not known. (I.C., 0492/40).

Estimated Dispositions

1 off Portugal.
1 in Finisterre area, possibly far out.
1 in Bay of Biscay.
1 in Western exit from Channel.
2 in Western Approaches.
1 S.W. of Ireland, homeward bound.
1 W. of Ireland, homeward bound.
Possibly 1 N. of Ireland.
1 N.W. of Hebrides outward bound.
1 N. of Scotland outward bound.
Possibly 1 or 2 between Shetlands and Norway.
Possibly 1 Italian near Canaries.
(D.D.I.C., 1224/24) (I.C., 0491/40).

Submarines Attacked

0407 — By Aircraft 59:58 N., 3:0 E., 125' E. of Shetlands, 70' S.W. of Stavanger. 2 251b bombs dropped. (I.C. 0491/40). Submerged on being sighted. Effect of bombs not observed. (Donibristle, 0540/24). (A.S.W.D. 293).

War Diary

24.6.40.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported

1405 — By French flying boat 260° Spartel 25'. Aircraft sent to investigate and co-operate at 1405. No confirmation by 1700 G.M.T. Italian submarine has left Centa. (200 Group to Air Min., 1800/24) (I.C., 0492/40 gives time as 1205).

Submarines Attacked

MACALLE — Struck reef and sank off Barra, Musa Kebir Island (19:20 N., 38:15 E.) 14/6. (C.O. Troops Khartoum 2226/24). Sank off Tufflbarra Musat Kebir 19:15 N., 38:9 E. about 30 crew seen on reef. Tug with armed party located submarine 1145/22. Crew had disappeared (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1845/24, C. in C. E.I., 05312/25).

Submarine in Ceuta — The Italian U-boat attacked by WATCHMAN on 12/6 off Almina Point which took refuge in Ceuta is now known to have sailed. (I.C., 0492/40) (Air Min. D.S. 341). My 1154/24 Consul-General, Tangier, confirms Italian U-boat left certainly night 23-24/6. (F.O.C.N.A. 2224/24)

LUIGI GALVANI sunk — Rammed and sunk by FALMOUTH 00012/24 25:55 N., 56:55 E. 31 survivors. Damage to FALMOUTH being investigated (C. in C., E.I. 01182/24, 0455/24).

Information from officers survivors. Submarine left Massawa 12/6. 3 other U-boats, GALILEO FERRARIS, GALILEO GALILEI, and MACALLE left the same day, 2 for Red Sea and 1 believed for Indian Ocean. 8 Italian U-boats and 7 destroyers were still at Massawa when LUIGI GALVANI left ha bour. A negative reply was received when asked whether Italian U-boats had left Massawa to operate in Cape area. Survivors state no mines were carried in LUIGI GALVANI, (FALMOUTH, 1045/24).

My 1304/22. Position as regards Port Sudan U-boat is as follows:- R.A.F. report oil patch over wreck was still there after 36 hours. S.N.O. Red Sea informs me that R.A.F. written report has produced no positive evidence of presence of submarine being an Italian U-boat. Reporting Officer Port Sudan 1651/23 which is being passed to you tends to confirm report can be assessed as B.1 but not as a known fact. (C. in C. E.I. 0806Z/24).

War Diary

24.6.40.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Mediterranean & East Indies (Contd.)

Submarines Attacked

7 U-boats sunk Yet another Italian U-boat has been destroyed by British Naval forces East of Suez, thus bringing the total of Italian U-boats definitely known to have been disposed of, to seven. Italy declared war on the 10th of this month. (Official Admiralty Communique, 1900/24).

War Diary

25.6.1940.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

France

The Armistice between France on the one hand and Germany and Italy on the other came into force at 0035/25. The text of the terms, as regards the disposal of the Navy, differs in the versions communicated by the French and received by the B.B.C. respectively.

Admiral Godfroy has received certain orders from the French Government (See Operations Volume)

C. in C., South Atlantic is proceeding to Dakar from Freetown in ALBATROSS F.N.L.O. at Freetown has been ordered by the French to return to Dakar. C. in C., S.A. reports that this is apparently general signal to all F.N.L.O's.

B.N.L.O. Brest (in JEAN BART) and B.N.L.O. Casablanca are to be discharged. WATCHMAN is at Casablanca; she has orders to shadow JEAN BART if the latter leaves port.

B.N.L.O. Algiers reports that the French Navy will not actively support General Nogues, though they appear determined not to surrender to the enemy.

RICHELIEU left Dakar at 1415/25 presumably for the Straits of Gibraltar. The Admiralty have ordered her to be located and shadowed. HOOD, ARK ROYAL and 5 destroyers have been ordered to proceed towards the Canary Is. with despatch. EMILE BERTIN arrived at Fort de France, Martinique from Halifax.

The master of a French merchantman states that on 24/6 he received instructions from the Bordeaux Government that all French warships and merchant ships at sea were not to proceed to British ports or French Atlantic ports, but to go to French North Africa or Mediterranean ports.

War Diary

25.6.1940.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

France

Evacuation of St. Jean de Luz

Evacuation in the St. Jean de Luz area was completed this afternoon. French troops, Air Force personnel and technicians were not allowed to leave France.
CALCUTTA, HIGHLANDER and the Canadian destroyers FRASER and RESTIGOUCHE left for the U.K.

FRASER Sunk

While making a sweep for the crippled French M.V. DE LA SALLE off the Gironde at 2215/25, FRASER collided with CALCUTTA and was cut in half. CALCUTTA is returning home at 9 knots.

R.A. Burges Watson in BROKE with VANQUISHER and WINCHELSEA left Plymouth for the Gironde. HIGHLANDER and one other destroyer are to R.V. with BROKE at 1800/26 and act under orders of R.A. Burges Watson.

Stocks of food at Gibraltar are being seriously reduced by floods of refugees from South France and by Polish and Czech troops on passage to U.K. from French ports.

German Convoy Attacked

SNAPPER attacked a small south bound convoy escorted by a trawler and aircraft off Stavanger, at 1606/25. One ship is believed sunk. The convoy apparently returned to the Northward

Raids on French Coast

Raids by landing parties were made at points on the coast held by the enemy today.

War Diary

25.6.1940.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

AIR

Normal patrols were flown today, and, in addition, patrols to Stavanger, Bergen and Scheldt areas and a reconnaissance to the Faroes.

An attack was made, at Bergen, on 6 merchant ships of 1000 to 3000 tons and an 8000 ton tanker in the harbour. Bombs fell on the Quay between the tanker and the shore tanks.

Enemy aircraft dropped bombs last night at Sheringham, Felixtowe, Yarmouth, Birchamm, Hullavington, Debden (½ mile from Aerodrome) Coventry, Loughborough, Derby and Bristol (where major damage is reported)

Mining

Reinforcements of the East Coast mine Barrier continued today. All ports in the U.K. are open.

Casualties

O.13. Dutch submarine O.13 which was due to return to Dundee 21/6 from patrol is overdue and must be presumed lost.

Swedish Destroyers

On the representations of the Swedish Government, the four destroyers seized at the Faroes, under the right of Angary, are being given back. In return, certain requests have been made to Sweden.

Troop Convoys 0715/25

B.C. Group 2. 3 ships with troops for Freetown, escorted by CORNWALL, left Simonstown 1000/24 B.S.T.

B.C. Group 1. 2 ships with troops for Freetown, escorted by DRAGON, is off Capetown.

C.M. 6 ships with West African troops and stores, escorted by KENT is in Mozambique Channel en route for Mombasa.

B.N.I. 9 ships, 3 of which contain troops, escorted by CERES and CATHAY is in the Indian Ocean, en route for Suez.

S.S. ANDES. With 3000 troops for Iceland, in company with ARGUS and 2 destroyers, expects to arrive at Reykjavik 0330/26.

War Diary

25.6.40.
Tuesday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Mediterranean	C. in C. Med. 0131/25 see Operations Volume.
Oran.	1st S.L. 1025/25 to F.O.C.N.A. see Operations Volume.
Casablanca.	Captain Holland 2245/25 see Operations Volume.
Indo-China.	Inform French C. in C. that if he would like me to come into Saigon for 24 hours on my way south I shall be delighted to do so. But I shall not do so unless he desires it (C. in C. China 6041Z/28).
Oran.	French Navy will not actively support Nogues due to lack of ammunition, stores and bases, but appear determined to maintain honour and not surrender ships to enemy (B.N.L.O. Algiers 0945/25 to Admiralty).
EMILE BERTIN.	DUNEDIN and EMILE BERTIN have both arrived Fort de France, Martinique (DUNEDIN 1431/25)
Casablanca.	WATCHMAN remain at Casablanca until further orders unless French raise strong objection (A.C.N.S.(F) 1634/25 to WATCHMAN).
French warships ordered not to go to British ports.	Master of French ST. BETRAND reports instructions received by French authorities and merchantile marine on short wave W/T from Bordeaux Government at 2300 G.M.T. daily. Instructions received 24th June ordered all French warships and merchant ships at sea not to proceed to British ports or French Atlantic Ports but to go to French North Africa or Mediterranean Ports.
F.N.L.O. Freetown.	F.N.L.O. at Freetown has been ordered by French Admiralty via Admiral Dakar to return to Dakar. Apparently a general signal to all F.N.L.O's. F.N.L.O. Freetown is emphatic that this may be an indication of attitude of French Fleet. (C.C. SA. 2101/25)

25.6.40.
Tuesday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

RICHELIEU

ARK ROYAL, HOOD, RESOLUTION, and all available destroyers raise steam for full speed. Acknowledge. (Adty. 0006/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 0006/25. Acknowledged. 5 destroyers available (F.O.C.N.A. 0116/25). Cancel my 0006/25. Revert to previous notice. (V.C.N.S. 0125/25).

DORSETSHIRE is to shadow RICHELIEU (1st S.L. 1900/25 to C. in C., S.A.). My 1900 DORSETSHIRE report when in touch and position course speed of RICHELIEU subsequently every 6 hours. (1st. S.L. 1946/25).

My 1900/25 report your position and intentions (1st S.L. 2241/25).

Your 2241/25. At 2200 zone + 1 my position course and speed are 016:40 N. 018:35 W. 25 knots. Expect to contact RICHELIEU at 2400 zone + 1. Intend to shadow. Failing contact intend to steer 320° 18 knots at 2400 flying off aircraft at 0445. (DORSETSHIRE 2200/25).

Follow RICHELIEU and endeavour to locate her (1st S.L. 2236/25 to HERMES).

Your 2236/25. HERMES is in harbour with 5 aircraft on shore aerodrome at Dakar, and only one pilot has previously landed at night. Her maximum speed is 21 knots. I did not send HERMES to follow RICHELIEU as I considered that extremely improbable she would be able to regain touch at daylight and presence HERMES at Dakar essential if I am to be in a position to carry out policy envisaged in Secretary of State's telegram 201 para 4. to Governor of Sierra Leone, if required.

C.O. HERMES is convinced that Captain of RICHELIEU will never hand over his ship to enemy. It is possible he may have received orders from Amiral Afrique proceed Casablanca. (C. in C., S.A. 2230/25 to Adty.)

HOOD, ARK ROYAL and 5 destroyers proceed with despatch towards Canary Is. (1st S.L. 2336/25 to V.A.A.).

RENOWN is to be at 2 hours' notice for steam. Maintain utmost secrecy regarding anything to do with RICHELIEU and JEAN BART (1st S.L. 2340/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

(Contd.)

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

RICHELIEU (Contd.)	RICHELIEU left Dakar at 1415/25 presumably for Straits of Gibraltar. HERMES inform DORSETSHIRE of latest information (1st S.L. 2357/25 to DORSETSHIRE).
JEAN BART	If JEAN BA T leaves harbour she is to be shadowed and her movements reported. If you cannot remain at Casablanca patrol outside the harbour. (1st S.L. 2235/25 to WATCHMAN).

War Diary

25.6.40.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Buckie Lossiemouth Macduff	Suggest 11 old Drifters be prepared as Blockships and placed in readiness. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1835/25 to Adty.)
Faroe Islands	Request what defences to be provided for Skaale Fjord and when likely to be installed. (C. in C., H.F. 1036/25 to Adty.)
Portland & Weymouth	Report on immobilisation preparations. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1810/24 to Adty.).
German troops concentrations	German troops reported (B.2) concentrated on W. coast of Jutland and in S.W. Norway. (Brit. Consul Goteborg 1236/25 to Puckish).
School of Combined Operations	School of Combined Operations being established with H.Q. at Loch Ailort. 4 M/B's and 5 Drifters based at Mallaig. (D.O.D.H. 1325/25 to C. in C., Rosyth).
Portsmouth Defence	Your 1421/22. C. in C., Southern Command is arranging to defend Portsmouth as adequately as possible without the Naval Battalion now withdrawn. (G.H.Q. Home Forces to Adty. Recd. 1115/25).
French and Belgian harbour	P.D.U. Sortie 25/6 shows Boulogne, Calais, Gravelines, Dunkirk, Nieuport clear of shipping but Barges increasing at Nieuport. Train movement on main line S. of Boulogne and in Calais Docks. (P.D.U.I. 1916/25 to N.I.D.).
Firth of Forth	Re A.A. guns Firth of Forth (C. in C. Rosyth 1159/25).

Policy

Eire	Your 1018/25. Adty. is aware of desirability of obtaining use of harbours in Eire. It is not the policy of H.M. Govt. to be the first to infringe their neutrality. (1st S.L. 2359/25 to C. in C., H.F.).

War Diary

25.6.40.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Swedish Destroyers

To be handed Back.

Swedish destroyers are to be returned to control of Swedish crews. Inform S.O. that reasons for return have been communicated to Swedish N.A. C. in C., H.F. arrange date and place of transfer. (V.C.N.S. 0130/25 to C. in C. H.F.).

Re Adty. 0130/25. As PSILANDER and ROMULUS are ready to sail request transfer may take place elsewhere and at same port as for PUKE and REMUS. Local conditions, lack of facilities, loss of prestige if white Ensign hauled down and Swedish colours rehoisted here render this desirable. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 0725/25 to C. in C. H.F.).

Movements

RODNEY
VALIANT

Your 0954/25 and my 1010/25. As disposition of Enemy heavy ships is now known, it is approved for RODNEY and VALIANT to remain at Scapa Flow. (1 S.L. 1718/25 to C. in C. H.F.).

Submarines

Position of submarines and movements at 0600/26:
TRITON, TRIDENT Frohavet, SNAPPER C ONE, SEVERN MBND 3030, RUBIS vicinity of PFJV 1352, H.31 A.5., H.34 in H.2., SEALION DKDN 4800 proceeding on surface to C.4., SALMON, TRUANT, SUNFISH vicinity of JSTS 2020. MBTS 3030 YNWY 1030 respectively, all three proceeding on surface to Rosyth.

H.44 in Gape E due Lowestoft 1315.

STURGEON leaves Blyth 1500 for A.5.
WILK leaves Dundee a.m. for Rosyth.
(V.A.S. 1849/25).

Operation Collar (Landing on French Coast).

Craft taking part in Operation Collar are to be sailed from the Hamble River for Newhaven, Dover, and Ramsgate in accordance with arrangements to be made with you by Lt. Cdr. Nicholls. (D.C.O. 1026/22 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

War Diary

25.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation Collar (Landings on French Coast)
(Contd.)

Operation Collar may be carried out at your discretion. (D.O.D.H. 1023/24 to V.A. Dover.)

Collar Force carry out Par. 4 C. of Operation Order No. 1 (V.A. Dover to N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1746/24).

Operation Collar completed. All boats returned. No casualties, no prisoners. (V.A. Dover, 0739/25).

Operation 21/6 (to intercept SCHARNHORST).

1. Reference Daily Summary Naval Events No. 291 consider account of movements of 18th C.S. most misleading.

2. Page 1 penultimate para. The danger from air attack which would have been avoided by a westerly courseand no bearing whatever on my decision to continue search to southward, request your authority for this statement.

3. When did the vital information contained in your statement that 18th C.S. was to the southward of SCHARNHORST at about 2330 become available? It was not passed out ot me.

4. On what authority is the statement made that our ships had been attacked continuously since 2030?
(C.S.18 1024/25 to D.N.I.)

Note The account given in D.S. 291 was based on Daily Report for 1st S.L., as was also the account given in War Diary Situation Report 21/6.

War Diary

25.6.40.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Gironde

Demolitions — Intend to confine operation to sending T.B.D. Force into the river to destroy Pauillac Refinery and Floating Dock and to take any ships lying off Le Verdon and Royan. Suggest that oil tanks at Bec d'Ambes be destroyed by simultaneous attack from the air. (C. in C., W.A.1116/25 to Adty.)

French attitude — Most Naval and Air Force Officers hope to continue fighting. But the country is on verge of famine due to bad food-distribution, reprisals on their families are feared, there is great lack of decision in high quarters, and any important destructions or demolitions here might drive French Govt. into anti-British attitude and might not be assisted by French Officers here.
(Report of Fl. Lt. Smith on Gironde situation. S.O.I. Plymouth 1117/25 to D.N.I.).

Neutral vessels to be brought out. Destroyer to be cut out. — Your 1116/25. An attempt is to be made to bring away all neutral vessels under armed guard, but not interfering with French M.Vs; and to to cut the Destroyer. If the latter cannot be cut out she should be sunk after providing for safety of crew. (D.O.D.H. 1257/25 to C. in C., W.A.).

Demolitions — My 1257/25. Force concerned is to be prepared to destroy oil stocks in Gironde river. Further instructions will follow. (D.O.D.H. 1309/25 to C. in C., W.A.).

Destroyer not to be cut out. — My 1257/25. Cancel para. 2 (as to Destroyer) (D.O.D.H. 1400/25 to C. in C., W.A.).

My 1301. French ship DE LA SALLE reports situation serious. Making for Gironde at slow speed under escort. (C. in C., W.A. 1527/25 to C.S.2).

Proposing operation be cancelled — In view of need for immediate counter-offensive to present heavy U-boat attacks, propose Gironde Operation be cancelled and all available destroyers be employed on A/S duties. (C. in C., W.A. 1651/25 to Adty.)

War Diary

25.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Gironde (Continued)

Operation cancelled

Your 1651/25. Para. 3 approved. (D.O.D.H. 1915/25 to C. in C., W.A.).

Operation to continue

First Sea Lord at 2030/25 instructed C. in C. W.A. to cancel Adty. Message 1915/25 concerning Gironde Operation. (War Registry 25/6).

My 2144/25. HIGHLANDER and one other destroyer to R.V. with BROKE 270° Corduan Light 15 miles at 1800/26 and act under orders of R.A. Burgess Watson. (C. in C., W.A. 2154/25 to C.S.2).

Your 2110/25. VERSATILE, WINDSOR, VIVACIOUS, and VESPER detailed. (D. 21, 2212/25 to C. in C., Nore).

Iceland

2200 tons coal available at Reykjavik. N.O.I.C. Iceland reports Thingeyri in Dryafjord and Seydisfjord both very suitable for coal dumps.

Ref. am/1249/22. 2 Battalions being landed at Akureyi, and for consideration whether this place should be used instead of Dryafjord. One Battalion will be landed at Seydisfjord. (Hd. of M. 2315/25 to C. in C., H.F.)

Operation Nitwit

Carry out operation Nitwit tonight 25/26 June.
Two M.T.Bs and one M.A/S Boat at B.
Two M.A/S Boats at C. (N.O.I.C. Dover, 1900/25)

M.T.B's report weather unsuitable for Nitwit and are returning to Harbour (BRILLIANT 2340/25 to N.O.I.C. Dover).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Submarines

Convoy attacked — Small south-bound convoy escorted by one trawler and a/c at 57:55 N., 5:7 E. attacked twice by SNAPPER. Six torpedoes fired and one ship believed sunk. (SNAPPER 1608/25 to Adty.).

Operation Beetle

Organisation Beetle Appendix A para 4(c) sub. para.(3) as corrected by Adty. 2108/24 is cancelled (D.S.D. 1951/25).

E-Boats

E/Bs reported — My 2037. Aircraft report in addition 2 boats at 48:30 N., 15:45 W. and 1 boat at 57:34 N. 15:50 W. at 2305/25. (C. in C., W.A. 0034/26 to Capt. D.9).

E. boats have been operating from Boulogne and it is suspected they may have a camouflaged base inside one of the inner harbours, although no trace can be seen of this in very clear photographs (W.S.G. No 43).

Air

Enemy Air Activity

At about 2300/25 aircraft crossed the coast at Yarmouth and in Wash area, and successive waves at Whitby, St. Abbs Head and Firth of Forth. (Air Min. D.S. 342).

Base of German M/L aircraft — There is definite evidence that Marx aerodrome at Barge, S.W. of Wilhelmshaven, and Borkum seaplane base are being used for minelaying aircraft, and there are mine stores at Cuxhaven, Eckernforde, Kiel and Wilhelmshaven, but these do not necessarily store magnetic mines. (W.S.G. No. 43).

Seaplane bases in Holland see W.S.G. No.43.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Tees and Hartlepool are closed; and a suspicious area is reported off Sunderland (D.C.N.S. 296).

Further minelaying in the East Coast Mine Barrier was completed today (D.C.N.S. 296).

One moored mine has been cut in the Would 52:55:30 N., 1:31 E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2103/25 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

German Fleet

Asking for latest dispositions of German Battle cruisers, cruisers, destroyers and Pocket Battleships, indicating which are ready for action and which under repair (C. in C. H.F. 0008/25).

BISMARCK
TIRPITZ

Your 1227/25. BISMARCK was last located at Hamburg 18th May and TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven 24/6 both completing. Location of other effective destroyers unknown. (D.D.I.C. 1356/25 to C. in C., H.F.).

Estimated disposition of Fleet

SCHARNHORST believed in Kiel, damaged (by aircraft attack, 2 hits, 21/6).
GNEISENAU Trondheim 23rd/6, effective.
8" cruisers: 1 Trondheim 23/6.
1 Unknown. 1 may be damaged by bomb.
NURNBERG and LEIPZIG: 1 at Trondheim 23/6.
1 unknown
1 may be damaged (by CLYDE 20/6).
KOLN believed to be at Hamburg. Refitting.
EMDEN repairing at Kiel.
SCHEER Wilhelmshaven on 24/6. Refitting.
LUTZOW probably Kiel, damaged.
GRAF ZEPPELIN unknown.
Destroyers: 9 to 12 effective, 2 at Wilhelmshaven on 24/6.
(D.D.I.C. 1010/25, W.S.G. No 43).

Naval Bases in Norway

See W.S.G. No. 43.

four 1010. Where is BISMARCK? Also balance of effective destroyers? (C. in C. H.F. 1227/25 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

NURNBERG hit 20/6 by CLYDE	My 1756/24, para 4. C.O. CLYDE states ship attacked was almost certainly GNEISENAU, and other ship roughly same size ship may well have been SCHARNHORST. (V.A.S. 1139/25 to Adty.). It is possible that the ships were 1 HIPPER and NURNBERG and that the latter was hit (W.S.G. No.43)
Hook	Four 1500 ton vessel in harbour at Hook at 1440, and three River Steamers 200 to 500 tons at 50:38 N., 4:17 E. at 1548. (Chatham 1745/25 to H.Q.C.C.).
Stavanger Empty	Reconnaissance of Stavanger shows no enemy warships. (R.A.S. 1823/25).
Dutch, Belgian and N.E. French ports	Full description of present state, as far as known, is given in W.S.G. No. 43 Appendix I.
Hamburg, Kiel Canal	Description of damage caused by air raids to date is given in W.S.G. No.43 Appendix IV.
Stavanger	Six M/Vs 2000 to 5000 tons, one small destroyer in dry-dock, and other vessels of smaller type observed by aircraft at 1420/25. (Donibristle 1740/25).
Bergen	No ships alongside; but six of 1000 to 3000 tons at anchor in harbour, and one large tanker 8000 tons alongside 2 oil tanks. Aircraft at 1503/25. (Donib ristle 1740/25).
50 Vessels	2255/25 50 vessels varying in size steering 283° in 53:0 N., 3:0 E. (H.Q.B.C., T.H.I. 2008/26).

War Diary

25.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

French M.Vs to be sent to British — Any further French M.Vs met in North Atlantic are to be sent back to a British port under guard. (C. in C., W.A. 0241/25 to Ships).

Ships not to go to French ports — All shipping of all nationalities is to be prevented from going to any port on the North and West coasts of France (Adty. 1531/25).

SVEND FOYN — Ship reported by aircraft at 1715/24 at 50:58 N. 1:31 E. as like astrain ferry now considered to have been the Whale Factory Ship SVEND FOYN. (V.A. Dover 0912/25 to Adty.).

Weather

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	North: S.W. Mod. to fresh.	Good.	Similar.
	South: Light variable.	Moderate.	W. Moderate, visibility moderate to good.
Channel	West light.	Moderate hazy.	Fresh westerly wind. Visibility good.
Western Approaches	W.N.W. Moderate to fresh.	Very good.	Similar.
Horns Reef	N.E. light.	Moderate hazy.	Light variable, moderate, visibility.

No reports received, probable weather:-

West Coast Norway	S. to S.W. fresh.	Moderate, to poor, coastal fog.	Similar, then visibility improving.

War Diary

25.6.40.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

CHARDE	H.M. trawler lost in collision with S.S. FOREMOST in Portsmouth Harbour on 21/6. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1933/25 to Adty.)
FRASER	H.M.C.S. collided with CALCUTTA at 2215/25 at 45:44 N., 1:31 W. and cut in half. Fore part sank and after part sunk by RESTIGOUCHE. (F.O.C. 2 C.S. 2335/25 to C. in C., W.A.).
ESK	In collision with Sheringham Light Float. Plating torn below water and maximum speed 18 knots. Returning to Humber. (Capt. D.20 0501/25 to Adty.).
DIDO	British 3554 tons, reported abandoned at Brest. (D.S. 295).
DUCHESS	Spritsail Barge, 91 tons, believed stranded near Dunkirk (D.S. 295).
GLORIOUS ORAMA (sunk 8/6)	Now appears that GLORIOUS was sunk by a HIPPER and NURNBERG, ORAMA by a big ship and 2 destroyers. Although the German account mentions the battlecruisers it is probable the big ship was a HIPPER (W.S.G. No.43).

Foreign Stations

GRAMPUS	F.O.I.C. Malta's 1815/19 GRAMPUS must now be considered lost. (C. in C., Med. 2353/25).
ODIN	V.A. Malta's 1815/19. Nothing further has been heard of ODIN although she has repeatedly been ordered to acknowledge messages. (ODIN is due at Alexandria 27/6) (C. in C., Med. 2357/25).

War Diary

15.6.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ARK ROYAL
HOOD
RESOLUTION
2 Destroyers

ARK ROYAL, HOOD, RESOLUTION and all available destroyers raise steam for full speed. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O.C.N.A., 0006/25) Acknowledged. 5 destroyers available (F.O.C.N.A., 0116/25) Cancel my 0006/25. Revert to revert to previous notice. (V.C.N.S., 0125/25)

Your 0050/25 (no trace in W.R.) expected to leave for Gibraltar 0800/25 unless delayed by by French naval authorities regarding flotilla stores. (WATCHMAN to F.O.C.N.A., 0345/25)

DUNERA

Your 2231/24. DUNERA sailed for U.K. in convoy at 1800/24 with 1300 troops and civilian evacuees. Transport for Polish airmen will be provided as soon as possible (F.O.C.N.A., 0514/25)

Gibraltar Congestion

Flooded with refugees in small ships from South France. Have passed on 500. 400 still here, 500 expected from Oran tonight where French refuse to accept them. 10,000 Poles and Czechs expected any time. All require food. No suitable ships here. Can you urge admty. to send ships with food for voyage at once. Situation likely to become extremely serious if ships do not arrive quickly. Cannot possibly allow Czechs and Poles to land, and stocks of food being seriously depleted. (Governor, Gibraltar, to W.O., 0030/25)

French Patrol Withdrawn

In view of withdrawal of French patrol (see my 1400/24) VELOX and KEPPEL are liable to attack by Italian forces. Should they be ordered to return to Gibraltar? (F.O.I/C Gibraltar 0050/25 to Admty)

Casablanca

Embark all British naval, army and air force personnel and report when you expect to leave for Gibraltar. Request French Naval authorities to arrange embarkation flotilla stores. (F.O.C.N.A. to WATCHMAN 0050/25)

/Your 0050.....

War Diary

25.6.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Casablanca, Contd.

Your 0050, my 0345/25. Still ashore B.N.L.O's Casablanca, Brest and small dockyard staff. B.N.L.O. engaged in embarkation of flotilla stores, wishes to know if dockyard staff and he should embark. Postponed sailing until 1800. (WATCHMAN to F.O.C.N.A., 0800/25)

Arrangements for flotilla store made. My 0800 B.N.L.O. intends staying for the present for other reasons. (WATCHMAN, 1020/25)

Straits Patrol

Your 2030/25. 6 destroyers available leaving Straits patrol held by A/S trawlers only. (F.O.C.N.A. 2220/25 to Admty)

Contraband Control Base, Gibraltar.

Attention is drawn to conditions now prevailing with regard to contraband control base Gibraltar. If cargo is ordered to be seized there are no facilities to deal with it and the Ship will have to be sent to a United Kingdom Port with an armed guard. There are no Officers or ratings available for guards the base being reduced to lowest possible minimum, surplus personnel having been absorbed for guards and defence duties. (C.C.S.O. Gib. 1115/25 to M.E.W.)

War Diary

25.6.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

South African R.N.V.R.

Establishment to be doubled, enabling 134 officers and 1822 ratings to serve under Admty. and on loan to Seaward Defence Force. Position on July 1 (details) (N.O.I.C., Simonstown 1302/25)

My 1501/24, para. 1. (d) is inaccurate. O.C. French armed guard misrepresented the facts. Danish Captain SELANDIA has sworn an affidavit complaining of French treatment and stating willingness of crew to go anywhere under Red Ensign but not under French flag. States crew vigorously anti-German and uneasy about being in French power owing to present situation in France. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1330/25, to S. in C., S.A.)

DORSETSHIRE

Is under your orders. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., S.A. 1253/25)

S.O. (L) Capetown 1501/24 Request you will issue orders to S.N.O. Simonstown as expeditiously aspossible for all these ships (C. in C., S.A. 1045/25 to Admty)

Your 1619/24 Approved. Notify French of your decision. (Admty. 1205/25 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

War Diary

25.6.1940.
War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Attitude of French

Saw Nogues this morning and told him Rome's account of Armistice with Italy. Nogues refused to believe it; as, acting on Telegram from Bordeaux Govt., yesterday he had last night issued proclamation to North Africa saying no question of abandoning N. Africa without a fight, that eventuality of military occupation by Foreign Power is excluded, and that Govt. is not disposed to consent to reduction of forces there. Nogues said Navy and upper part of Aviation would not play; and that up to 22nd June Govt. intended to move from Bordeaux to Algiers. (No 3 (Dillon) Mil. Mission 1411/25 to War Office)
Vital here to know attictude of Nogues, who holds key to situation. (No 8 (S.Jones) Mil. Mission to No 3 M.M., 1800/25)

Mittelhauser

Mittelhauser states has not changed his determination to carry on. He is feeling weight of responsibility, decision means breaking with his late chiefs Petain and Weygand and that any minute he will receive telegram depriving him of his rank and naming hissuccessor. I replied I felt sure that he would refuse to allow such a successor to enter the country.
Difficulties with reservists. I said honour of France was in his hands and that the eyes of the world were on him.

2. Mittelhauser learnt this morning that French Fleet in Alexandria has received orders to leave British Fleet and come to Beirut. He would like immediate reply showing situation as between British and French Fleets in Alexandria.

3. General is anxious about attitude of Nogues. He has cabled him but had no reply. Early assurance here would help.

4. Mittelhauser anxious lest British take over this part of world at end of war. I said he could count on British honour but I think an assurance from high quarters is required.

5. There is tendency for determination to carry on to weaken. Mittelhauser has right idea but is too old. (1415/25 No 8 (Jones) Mil. Mission, to C. in C., M.E.)

War Diary

25.6.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean, Contd.

Attitude of French, Contd.

Your 1415/25/6 Following from S.of S. for War. Mittelhauser's difficulties appreciated. Assure him of our warm admoration for the courageous attitude he has taken up.

You are authorised to confirm to General Mittelhauser on behalf of H.M.G. the assurance that you have already given him in para. 4. of your telegram. (War Office 0205/26, to No 8 Mil. Mission.

I must again repeat that unless strong authoritive Empire Government set up immediately in North Africa danger of situation deteriorating is real. Definite signs of defection among French reservists. Morale will rapidly deteriorate of inactivity continues. Urge high quarters to issue personal statement to General Mittelhauser giving him support. May I be authroised to make public statement if moment opportune and with Mittelhauser's consent calling on all to rally round commanders. (No 8. (Jones Mil. Mission. 1650/25 to C. in C., Middle East)

General

Danube Craft

Tugs, etc., ex Danube to be sailed with first southbound African Convoy, towing as many dumb lighters as can be towed at 10 knots. (C. in C., Med. no T.O.O./25)

Publicity

Request reconsideration of policy of broadcasting and emphasising all British losses by B.B.C. Foundation of enemy propaganda. Ambassador supports request. (Adm. Sir Howard Kelly 1124/25)

Algiers

4 British ships sailed from Algiers, order just received prohibit sailing same due at Balkans. Reliably informed this is on account of holding some French ships in British ports. Naval authority stresses French Navy still ready to help Allied should peace terms fail. Therefore is highly important no incident should occur to upset French-British accord. (B.N.L.O. Algiers. 1600/25 to Admty)

War Diary

25.6.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-General, Contd.

Communications

Beyrout only has been working since 1400Z (F.O.I/C Malta 1814/25)

No communication on Angl-French W/T routine since 0400Z and no French stations heard working (F.O.I/C Malta 1351/25)

Turkey

No change in Turkish attitude. No action for present. Policy of prudence due entirely to force of circumstances, (N.A. Ankara 1900/25)

Operations

Submarine Patrols.

C. in C., Med. 1931/25.

Air

Enemy Flying Boats

Operational Summary No 14 mentions 6 flying boats located Bomba Bay. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 0020/25)

Swordfish At Malta

Admty. have agreed that Swordfish aircraft of 767 Sqdn. now at Malta are to come under your orders for attacks in Sicily against (a) oil targets, (b) air targets except when required by C. in C., Med., for other operations. Pending arrival of maintenance personnel referred to in Admty. 1926/24 to F.O.I.C., Malta, every endeavour to be made to service these aircraft from local courses so that attacks can be started forthwith. (Air Min., to H.Q., Malta, 1725/25)

Enemy Intelligence

GARIBALDI
ABRUZZI

6" cruisers, formerly at Taranto, are now probably at Tobruk. (W.S.I. No 2.)

War Diary

25.6.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Shipping

There has been no evidence yet that Italain shipping has been passing either singly or in Convoy between Italy and Libya but it is evident that such traffic must eventually take place in considerable volume.

It is of vital importance to defence of Egypt that passage of troops and supplies be stopped whenever possible.

With my limited forces opportunity of doing this with surface forces will be fleeting.

Submarine action (corrupt group) to be only means of exerting continual pressure.

Request existing instructions regarding attacks on convoys and merchant ships by S/Ms as laid down in M.C.D. Number 212 M.W.A."B". Envelope B S 2 may be put in abeyance and S/Ms be given freedom to attack all vessels entering or leaving Leaving Lybian ports. The Italian declaration broadcast from Rome 11th June that ships approaching within 30 miles of Allied Coasts do so at their own risk and peril might be cited as a reason for declaring a dangerous area on the Lybian coast. (C. in C., Med. 2317/25)

East Indies

Convoys

C. in C., E.I. and Air C.C. in C., satisfied that convoys can proceed Red Sea. Convoys leave Suez and Aden at the same time and rendezvous North Port Sudan strong escort from Aden and weak escort from Suez interchange convoys at rendezvous. Air cooperation provided from Aden and probably Port Sudan. Convoy cycle 20 days. (C. in C. H.F. 1612/25 to W.O. Recd. by Admty. 0827/26)

War Diary

25.6.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Hong Kong Evacuation — In event of evacuation request authority to requisition foreign shipping under the right of Angary if there are insufficient British ships available. (Cdr., Hong Kong 0517Z/25)

America & West Indies.

Signals Heard — Intercepted signals heard bearing 120° (C. in C., A.W.I. 1005/25 to Admty.) Same signal repeated bearing 130° from Bermuda. (C. in C., A.W.I. 0117/25 to Admty)

St. Lawrence. — Your 1532/21. Estimated Belle Isle can be used by July 1. Should enemy action develope in Gulf of St. Lawrence, intended to prohibit use of this route in order to restrict area to be guarded by our very limited number of patrol craft 4 mine-sweepers. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to Admty. 1737/25)

Martinique — Admiral Robert's attitude is weakening. He still awaits orders from Bordeaux Government particularly from Darlan. Vital that British Government keep him officialyy informed to maintain his spirit and influence his future policy. Her particularly requests official information re (1) Armistice terms (11) French Committee in London (111) (?Bombing Aircraft) in North Africa. (DUNEDIN 1836/25 to C. in C., A.W.I

War Diary

25.6.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

New Zealand

French Papeete	Brit. Consul at Papeete reports French Naval Authority requests information to whom to look for authority. They await pro-Ally orders. (Navy Office, Wellington, 2205Z/25)
Mine off New Zealand-Summary	18/6. Moored mines were revealed by sinking of NIAGARA in 35.53'S, 174° 54'E, 60 miles N. of Aukland in the Aukland Sydney shipping route. Two newly laid mines of German Origin were subsequently swept 3 miles further north. 23/6 4 mines were reported in 360° 29'S, 175° 58'E, in the Eastern approach to Aukland, on the route for southbound shipping. (W.S.G.N.O. 43)
HECTOR Raider	Your 1818/24 (1) It is hoped to release HECTOR immediately present operations are completed. (11) Suspicious signals received by medium frequency D/F Stations from 19th June to 20th June arr thought to indicate possibility of rendevous between raider and supply ship. (111) ACHILLES is at sea investigating region of Kermadecs and will be assisted by Flying Boat Awarua. HECTOR is patrolling to Eastward of Cook Straits. (N.Z.N.B. 0538Z/25)

War Diary

25.6.40.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ALTENGAMME (NAPTHA SHIPPER) — is believed to be the former British tanker NAPTHA SHIPPER (5897 tons) which was laid up at Hamburg at the declaration of war. She is reprted at Tallion. (W.S.G. No 43)

VENTA — Report received 17/6 states that this ex-Latvian ship (1886 tons) is now under German flag.

KLAUS SCHOKE, LUISE BORNHOFEN at Horta; GERMANIA at San Miguel — Have been searched for arms. Port Captain at Horta states there are 49 Germans in the ships and 8 ashore. (W.S.G. No 43)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CONTE BIANCAMINO — Transit Canal today, now anchored at Colon. Embargo still in force. U.S. Marshal on Board. (S.O.I., Kingston 1601/25)

CELLINA
LIBANO
POLLENZA — It is reported that the CELLINA, 6,080 tons and the LIBANO, 1,592 tons, beached at Gibraltar at the beginning of the war with Italy, should be refloated and ready for sea shortly. These two ships have now been reported as ships and cargoes seized in prize on 19th June. The POLLEZA 6,470 tons, afloat and undamaged is in her original berth at Gibraltar but the Spanish Authorities claim that she is in their territorial waters. The matter is now in the hands of the Governor.

LAVORO
OLTERRA
PAGAO
MARZOCCO — The Spanish also claim the LAVORO, 8,000 tons, and the OLTERRA, which had to beach off Spanish territory, Spanish guards have been placed on board. Both these ships can probably be salvaged. The PAGAO 6,101 tons, sunk at Gibraltar, is probably a total loss. The MARZOCCO 5,160 tons, is lying on a Pinnacle Rock with holds 1 and 2 and engine room and boiler room flooded.

During last week, seven Italian Merchant ships were reported as having arrived in neutral ports, and eight ships are under arrest for debts to the Asiatic Petroleum Company. (W.S.I. No 2.)

War Diary

25.6.1940.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

SARANAC — British Tanker (12049 tons) torpedoed 48.24 N., 15.05 W about 270 miles W.S.W. of Lands End at 1408/25. In outward-bound convoy OA 172 (V.C.N.S. 296) 48.24'N 15.05'W (Valentia Radio 1413/25) 50. 40'N., 13.30'W., (Devonport W/T 1358/25 Lands End Radio 1515/25)

WINDSORWOOD — British (5395 tons) torpedoed 48.24 N., 15.05 W about 370 miles W.S.W. of Lands End at 1408/25 In outward bound convoy OA 172 (V.C.N.S. 296) Valentia Radio 1413 25, Land's End Radio 1515/25)

SAN FLORENTINO — British Tanker (12842 tons) torpedoed about 370 miles W.S.W. of Land's End at 1403/25 In outward-bound convoy OA 172 (V.C.N.S., 296) (Valentia Radio 1413/25) 48.24' N., 15.05'W. (S. FLORENTINO, 1358/25) (Land's End Radio 1515/25)

ANDALUSIAN Arrived — Reported torpedoed 20/6 has arrived undamaged 'A.S.W.D. 294)

TILJA GORTHON — Swedish 1776 tons torpedoed in British territorial waters June 25. Crew of 19 saved. (Swedish reports quoted by Transocean 1900 G.M.T. 26/6)

CRUX see below

Submarines Reported

0823 — D.F., unknown enemy unit, 57.10., 2.50' E unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 0850/25)

CI
1513 — Cancel my 1513/25 (reporting enemy submarine) Return to your convoy. (C. in C., W.A. 1647/25 to VOLUNTEER, WHIRLWIND)

1356 — 50.40. N., 13.30 W., reliable fix. (C. in C. W.A., 1526/25)

1322 — D.F., 51.30 N., 13.00'W Unreliable fix. (C. in C., W.A., 1403/25)

1355 — 48.24'N., 15.05'W., reliable fix (C. in C., W.A. 1513/25)

0916 — D.F., 55.10'N., 11.40'W., unreliable fix, probably U-boat (D.D.I.C., 1008/25)

2330 — Patrol land at Porta Delgada sighted S/M on surface which submerged. (N.A. Lisbon, 1952/26)

CRUX — Norwegian reported sunk (A.1) 2345/25 off Portugal, 36.53'N., 14.W., 268° St. Vincent 240' (I.C. 0494/40)

War Diary

25.6.1940.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Estimated U/B dispositions:-

1 in Finisterre Area
2 in Bay of Biscay
2 in Western Approaches and 1 passing through from Finisterre area homewards.
1 in about 55.10N. 11.40 W at 0916/25 homeward bound.
1 N.W. of Ireland outward bound.
1 S.W. of Hebrides homeward bound.
1 N.W. of Hebrides outward bound.
1 Italian U/B off Cape Spartel 1205/24 probably returning to Mediterranean.
(D.D.I.C. 1210/25)

Mediterranean

MAKIS — Greek, reported in press mined off south coast of Sicily. (W.S.I. No 2)

Submarines Attacked

MACALLE
Stranded.
Sunk.

My 0806/24. Diary reveals that Italian U-Boat MACALLE struck reef and sank on 14/6. Exact disposal of crew is still obscure from evidence so far available. (C. in C., E.I., 05312/25)

War Diary

26.6. 1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

French Fleet

Reports from various French ports show that spirit and intentions vary from urgent desire to "fight on" to despondency and a desire only to obey orders of French Govt. Long period uncertainty and inactivity is undoubtedly having bad effect on Officers and crews. The former, who are all frightened for their families, need vigorous lead from a prominent Frenchman, preferably from French territory. The example of Alexandria, where Admiral Godfroy was apparently thankful when his request to sail his squadron was refused, would show them not displeased at having to bow to "force majeure", but naturally prefer to remain under French colours.

The discipline and morale of crews is considered doubtful in many cases, though engagement with enemy might change this. Senior Officers harp on obedience to orders of legal Government and if no lead is forthcoming, French Navy seems more and more resigned to its fate, though refusal to hand over ships to the enemy appears probable.

The Germans have obtained French Naval codes and are issuing instructions to the French Navy and Marine purporting to come from Admiral Darlan. It can be assumed that this procedure has been used since 20/6.

WATCHMAN has been ordered by Admiral Ollive to leave Casblanca. She sailed at 1800 and is patrolling outside territorial waters. F.N.L.O. Brest who was also ordered to leave, is on board WATCHMAN.

RICHELIEU and FLEURET (destroyer) are steering towards Dakar, to which port French Admiral Dakar has informed C. in C., S.A. that Admiral Afrique recalled her during the afternoon.
DORSETSHIRE has reverted to the orders of C. in C., S.A. Her Walrus aircraft is down in the sea and HEREWARD left DAKAR 1700/25 to assist DORSETSHIRE to search for it.

EMILE BERTIN is at Martinique. DUNEDIN is at Martinique and FIJI is patrolling off Fort de France.

The S/M NARVAL entered Malta, and wishes to fight under General de Gaulle.

War Diary

26&6.1940.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

France

Evacuations. Sete and Port Vendres

The evacuations from Sete and Port Vendres are apparently completed, and VELOX and KEPPEL are returning to Gibraltar.

R.A. Burges Watson in BROKE, with VANQUISHER and WINCHELSEA arrived in the Gironde today and are rounding up and despatching neutral vessels.

The Admiralty has ordered that all ships of all nationalities are to be prevented from going to any port on the North and West coasts of France.

AIR

Patrols

19 anti-invasion patrols were flown at dawn and dusk, and 16 A/S patrols were carried out over the Northern areas during the morning and repeated in the evening. A standing patrol was maintained over Boulogne-Cap Gris Nez- Calais area.

French Aircraft

Reliable information has been received that 604 French aircraft and some 1650 personnel have been evacuated from France to North Africa.

Invasion

There is now sufficient evidence to justify the conclusion that attack by dive bombers in force, protected by fighters, may be expected shortly, though not necessarily as part of a sea or air borne invasion. (C.I.C. Report No 26)

Raid on U.K.

Between 2230/25 and 0400/26 successive waves of enemy aircraft crossed the coast. Bombs were dropped at several places from the Tyne (in the sea), Lincolnshire, Warwickshire, to Hampshire. Damage was slight. 5 enemy aircraft were shot down.

Mining

There was much activity off the East Coast last night, and mining activity is suspected.

Magnetic mines have been exploded off Portsmouth, Yarmouth and Hartlepool. Tees Sunderland and Hartlepool are closed.

RUBIS reports that she completed mine-laying operations off the coast of Norway

/today.....

War Diary

26.6.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

today, and is returning to Dundee.

British magnetic mines have been laid in the Rade de Dunkirk and between the heads of the breakwater at Boulogne.

Troop Convoys

S.S. ANDES

with Troops for Iceland, in company with ARGUS and 2 destroyers, which were expected to arrive early today, has been delayed 20 hours by bad weather.

Casualties

GRAMPUS

was overdue yesterday from patrol and must be considered lost.

German Preparations fo Invasion

Aircraft reconnaissance today reported onl 6 merchant ships in Bergen harbour and 6 merchant ships and other small craft at Stavanger. From the beginning of the Norwegian invasion there has always been between 30 and 40 ships in Bergen harbour and Fudde Fiord. Since 21/6 the number of ships at Stavanger has increased.
There is no direct evidence bearing on the possibility of immediate invasion. (C. I. C Report No 27)

Italian Hostilities

Submarine destroyed

KINGSTON attacked an Italian U-boat with guns and depth charges in the southern Red Sea at 1700/26 and considers that the submarine was probably destroyed.
There were 5 air raids on Malta today. slight damage was caused to Kalafrana, Hal Far and Luqa Aerodromes. The dockyard was also attacked and a school at the dockyard slightly damaged.
3 Italian destroyers yesterday bombarded the road near Sollum. The road was pock-marked but the asphalt was not damaged.

War Diary

26.6.1940.
Wednesday

FRENCH FLEET

The Following signals are precised in Operations Volume:-

Re JEAN BART, Admty. 0345/26, 0346/26, 1537/26, 2108/26, WATCHMAN 2015/26, 1130/26.

Re RICHELIEU, Admty. 1255/26, 1902/26, C. in C., S.A. 1512/26, 1705/26, DORSETSHIRE, 1230/26. 1451/26, 1456/26, 1640/26, 1730Z/26.

BEARN
JEANNE D'ARC

Report if BEARN and/or JEANNE D'ARC arrived at Martinique (1st S.L. 0258/26 to DUNEDIN)
Report if BEARN and/or JEANNE D'ARC arrive at Casblanca (1st S.L. 0259/26 to WATCHMAN)

RICHELIEU

If you have not located RICHELIEU by daylight 26th you are to search for RICHELIEU on the assumption she will pass between Gran Canaria and Africa at a speed of between 15 and 20 knots. The above is subject to any information you may receive. (1st S.L. 0046/26 to DORSETSHIRE)

My 0046/26. If RICHELIEU has not been located by DORSETSHIRE or HERMES by dusk on the 26th you are to take DORSETSHIRE and HERMES under your orders and organise a search to locate her. If she is located she is to be unobstrusively shadowed pending receipt of instructions which follow. (1st S.L. 0047/26 to V.A.A)

Admiral Dakar has informed me that he has receivedinstructions from Admirla Darlan to tell me that H.M. Ships at Dakar is contrary to terms of Armistice. Ihave informed him that I must remain here until I received further instructions from Admiralty, and have asked him to obtain assurance from Admiral Darlan that while H.M. Ships are not allowed to use port base, the enemy also will not be allowed to use it.
I feel confident that there is a determinatio that no French warship at Dakar, including RICHELIEU, will allow themselves to be surrendered to enemy.
All H.M. Ships at Dakar have steam at short notice.

Casablanca

Ordered by Admiral Ollive to leave Casablanca Sail at 1800 and will patrol outside territorial waters. Oil fuel remaining 230 tons (WATCHMAN 1400/26)

War Diary

26.6.1940.
Wednesday.

FRENCH FLEET

Policy

To further our policy of obtaining effective co-operation of units of French Navy point out to French Authorities with whom you are in contact that we have evidence to show Germans have obtained French Naval codes and are issuing instructions to the French Navy and Marine purporting to come from Admiral Darlan. It can be assumed that this procedure has been used since 20/6. Under these circumstances policy of waiting to received orders from Admiral Darlan can only result in playing still further into German hands.

Emphasize that Darlan's last message dated 20th June finished by saying- "Whatever be the orders received never abandon to the enemy a ship of war intact". (A.U.N.S. (F) 1910/26 to A.I.C.9, F.O.C.N.A.)

JEAN BART

What ammunition is on board JEAN BART? (F.O.C.N.A. 1212/26) Reply. Armament is incomplete. Unlikely any ammunition is on board. (D.O.D. (F) 0201/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

RICHELIEU

My Walrus down in approx 17.55'N 17. 20'W at 1200 Z and reports can keep afloat about 7 hours. Can you help? Wind from 330° 26 knots (DORSETSHIRE 1400Z/26 to HEYGES, H.M.A.S. ALBATROSS)
DORSETSHIRE is to revert to your orders.

2. If RICHELIEU sails again from Dakar she is to be shadowed. (V.C.N.S. 2106/26 to C. in C., S.A.)

ARK ROYAL

My 0047/26. Return to Gibraltar.

2. In view of attitude of French it is desirable that swordfish referred to in F.O.C.N.A's 1936/26 only should be embarked during passage. (V.C.N.S. 2107/26 to V.A.A.)

RICHELIEU

My aircraft reported RICHELIEU in 19.28'N 18.52'W at 0730 Z plus 1 steering 10. 18½ knots. Aircraft made forced landing. Intend to try locate aircraft and if unsuccessful at 1130 to continue search for RICHELIEU to westwards. Request further instructions. (DORSETSHIRE 1125/Z/26)

War Diary

26.6.1940.
Wednesday.

FRENCH FLEET

RICHELIEU Contd.

Admiral Dakar informs me RICHELIEU and FLEURET (destroyer) have been ordered by Admiral Afrique to return to Dakar. FLEURET sailed from Dakar just before RICHELIEU 25/6 (C. in C., S.A.) (1255/26)

One battleship bearing 020° distance 8 miles course 155 (?) position 220° 18° N 18° W 32S (DORSETSHIRE 1429/26)

RICHELIEU informs me she is en route for Dakar (DORSETSHIRE 1630Z/26)

My position course and speed at 2200 zone plus one 015° 54' North, 017° 58' West, 168° 15 knots. RICHELIEU 168° one mile. Intend to enter harbour after her at approximately 0630 zone plus one and requisition 15 hundred tons of oil fuel. My aircraft still afloat at 2000, weather has moderated. (DORSETSHIRE 2300Z/26)

Cancel my 1902/26.
Cease shadowing and search for your Walrus. (D.O.D. (F) 2215/26 to DORSETSHIRE)

Casablanca

I was today requested to leave Casablanca and have embarked in WATCHMAN.

When taking leave of Admiral Delaborde he informed me he anticipated proceeding to Algiers to take charge of demobilisation of French Fleet.

Nearly all officers now believe Fleet will b allowed to remain under their conrol in Colonial Ports and this has led to decrease of enthusiasm among Junior Officers.

Formed impression that no orders for action contemplated for French Battleship JEAN BART or other French ships at Casablanca.

(B.N.L.O. Brest in WATCHMAN 2015/26)

BEARN
JEANNE D'ARC

Ref. Admty. 0259/26. B.N.L.O. Casablanca believes these ships were ordered to West Indies. (WATCHMAN 1745/26)

War Diary

26.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

A3 Telegram 1905/25 from Sir. H. Kellyte Admty. Add that Turks expect attack on South coast of Ireland; and that for attack on England many fast Speed-Boats will be used. (N.A. Angora 1549/26 to D.N.I.)

Meeting suggested of C. in C., Nore, D.O.D. Admty. Air Officers Commanding, and possibly C. in C.s Portsmouth, Plymouth, Rosyth, and V.A. Dover, to be held in London to discuss details of preparations against invasion. Suggest Admty should arrange (C. in C., Nore 1736/26 to Sec. Admty.)

Request inform me whether R.A.F. aircraft u use lighting of Thames to W. of Southend. If not, propose to extinguish Thames Lights as being useful to enemy aircraft. (C. in C., Nore 2205/26 to A.M.V. 16 R.A.F.)

Policy

It is under consideration to base cruisers on Tyne. Can up to three ships of SOUTHAMPTON class berth in Tyne without inconveniencing shipping and at same time be at immediate notice for sea. (D.C.D.H. 1459/26 to F.O.I.C. Tyne)

Your 1459/26. Two cruisers can be berthed if draught under 21 feet. (N.O.I.C. Tyne 0730/27 to Admty)

War Diary

26.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

YUZBASI HAKKI — Turkish minelayer No 2 to be sailed as soon as possible independently to Freetown. (Hd. of M. 1808/26 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Position of Submarines 0600 26th June.

(A) Two CXRR 3030

(B) One C.L.

(C) One M.B.N.D. 3030.

(D) One Vicinity P.F.J.V. 1352.

(E) One A.5.

(F) One H.2.

(G) One D.K.D.N. 4800 proceeding C.4.

(H) One J.S.T.S. 2020 proceeding on surface Rosyth.

(I) One M.T.B.S. 3030 proceeding on surface Rosyth.

(J) One vicinity C.P.W.Y. 1020 proceeding Lowestoft.

(L) One leaves Blyth 1500 for A.5.

(M) One leaves Dundee A.M. for Rosyth.

(D.C. 0225/26)

Submarine positions 0600/27 TRITON TRIDENT From Havet RUBIS B.Q.T.S. 0045, proceeding on surface to Dundee SHAPPER C One SEVERN M.B.N.D. 3030 SEALION M.B.R.U. 4500 Proceeding submerged to C 4 H 31 A 5 H 34 in H 2 STURGEON B.F.D.N. 2020 proceeding submerged to AE SALMON TRUANT SUNFISH due Rosyth a.m. from North East. L.23 exercising West of Hoy. L26 escorted by Netherlands Torpedo Boat 25 leaves Dundee p.m. for Scapa. TALISMAN escorted by IMOGEN from Liverpool arrives Clyde a.m. (V.A.S. 1944/26)

War Diary

26.6.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

France

Dieppe — Entrance of Harbour blocked by wrecks. No sign of enemy activity and no gunfire encountered. Aircraft report at 1300/26. (Chatahem A.C.H.Q. 1514/26 to H.Q.C.C.)

Gironde — Cancel my 2154/25 (A.C.W.A. 0847/26 to F.O.C. 2 C.S.)

Operation Collar

As sequel to Operation Collar request an extensive smoke screen be laid by aircraft tonight of tomorrow at dusk about 2' off coast between Boulogne and Le Touquet. Object, to induce enemy to believe an attack imminent. (D.O.D.H. 1743/26 to V.A. Dover)

Operations

R.M. Brigade — All M/T equipment, stores, and personnel to be embarked in 4 Personnel ships and one M/T ship expected to arrive Milford Haven 26th; and notice of Brigade to be reported for sailing after embarkation completed. (D.O.D.H. 0001/26 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)

Mining

Hartlepool Tees. — Second mine detonated at 1503 at 54.41'28"N 1.7'12"W Port of Hartlepool still open. Port of Tees closed til swept. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1740/26 to D.M.S.)

War Diary

26.6.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Cuxhaven

At 0015/26 two M/V's about 8000 tons 3½' N.W. of Cuxhaven steaming 90° up Elbe; and at 0105/26 one cargo ship about 6000 tons stationary and blacked out, at 54° 0'N 8° 25'E (T.H.I 0300/27)

Rotterdam

At 1315 many Barges and 3 cargo vessels in harbour, and one small Destroyer anchored in river. Many Barges on Rhine between Nijmegen and Emmerich, some moving West. (T.H.I. 0300/27)

At 2252/26 six small ships at 53° 22' N 2° E steaming West in line ahead. (H.Q.B.C. 0306/28)

Three small vessels steering 090° in line abreast observed at 2232/26 at 53.28'N (H.Q.B.C. 2118/27)

War Diary

26.8.1940.
Wednesday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

FRASER
CALCUTTA

CALCUTTA expects to arrive 0845/27 with 3 Officers and 30 Ratings survivors from H.M.C.S. FRASER. Request Berth alongside under crane as there is wreckage to be lifted from Forecastle and only one bower anchor remaining which may be fractured. (C.S.2. to C. in C., W.A. 2105/26)

War Diary

26.6.1940.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Destroyers — Admty 2336/25. 5 destroyers with V.A. (A) leaves only one available for screening RESOLUTION until return of KEPPEL and VELOX expected late tonight. Am ordering V.A. (A) to proceed with 4 only. (F.O.C.N.A. 1102/26)

Polish Ships — Admty. 2249/24. French Authorities are sailing these ships (Polish ISKRA and WILIA to Gibraltar shortly. (B.N.L.O. Casablanca 1346/26)

BEARN JEANNE D'ARC — Ref Admty. 0259/26 re BEARN and JEANNE D'ARC B.N.L.O. Casablanca believes these ships were ordered to West Indies. (WATCHMAN 1745/26)

WATCHMAN Casablanca — Ordered by Admiral Gilive to leave Casablanca Sail at 1300 and will patrol outside territorial waters. Oil fuel remaining 230 tons. (WATCHMAN to F.O.C.N.A. 1400/26)

French Ships — French ESPIQUETTE now at Vila Real De San Antonio, has been instructed to proceed to Lisbon to German agents. British motor vessel St. GERMAN at Vila Real is prepared to intercept. Master of French steamship Lieutenant Sofberlier, bound for Morocco with valuable cargo of coil and cotton desired his ship to be captured. Can you do anything? (Lisbon to S.O.I. Gib., 1850/26)

Minesweepers — Movements of French minesweepers, etc., (N.A., Lisbon 1952/26)

French Intelligence — At present time it is most important to have early information of movements of French naval forces from Oran to Toulon. Request you will institute air patrol ascontinuous as possible. (A.C.N.A. (F), to F.O.C.N.A., 2016/26)

Cadiz — Admty. 1558/24. There are no protective minefields or obstructions in Cadiz at present, but 5 new guns have been installed at San Fernando Fortress on causeway, also 2 A/A guns. Do not consider there are any special objectives Lacarrack. (Consul, Cadiz, 1115/26)

Neutral shipping — C.C.S. 1337/21 and Admty. 0037/21, propose sailing following neutral vessels in next convoy for Milfor Haven unless orders to contrary (list of 11) (F.O.C.N.A. 1035/26)

Las Palmas — State of garrison and defences. (N.O.I.C., Las Palmas, 1745/26)

War Diary

26.6.40
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

DORSETSHIRE, Walrus down. — My Walrus down in approx. 17°55' N., 17°20' W., at 1200 zone + 1, and reports can keep afloat for about 7 hours. Can you help please. Wind from 330° 26 knots. (DORSETSHIRE to HERMES, ALBATROSS 1400Z/26)

Cancel my 1902/26. Cease shadowing and search for your WALRUS (D,C.D.(F) 2215/26)

Your 1640/26. Intend to be in 17.24' N., 16°30' W. at dawn 27/6 and to search to north and east with seven aircraft. (HERMES to DORSETSHIRE, 2235/26).

Convoy B.C.F. — State on leaving Capetown. Oil and water requirements. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1533/26)

Volunteers — S.O.I., Montevideo reports that HIGHLAND PATRIOT from Santos June 25, due St. Vincent, C.V., July 4, has 70 British volunteers on board from River Plate. (S.O.I., Freetown, Sierra Leone, 1238/26).

DELHI — Left Freetown for Takoradi 26/6 (S.O.I. Freetown 821/26).

War Diary

26.6.40
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

General

S/Ms. to proceed to Malta. Two submarines nearest to Malta to proceed to Malta with all despatch. (D.O.D.(F) 0257/26) PANDORA and PROTEUS ordered (C. in C. Med. 1645/26, 2023/26)

Spain. Increased uneasiness. Prospect of Germans on frontier most unwelcome. Dissension in Cabinet. 5th Column strong but watched by Army. Navy dispositions normal. (N.A. Madrid, 1952/25, recd. 0055/26).

OSWALD. To remain in Area N.1 from 0001/28 to 0001/29 (Capt.S.1, 1209/26)

PANDORA) PROTEUS) Cancel my 1249/26. To proceed with all despatch to Malta. (C. in C. Med. 1645/26)

Shipping. All British, Dutch, Belgian, Norwegian and Polish shipping and neutral shipping on allied charter at present in French Mediterranean North African ports is to be withdrawn as soon as this can be done with reasonable safety. (D.T.D. to C. in C.Med., F.O.C.N.A 1939/26)

Palestine. Your 1817/17/6 approved. (Haifa N.O.I.C.appointment to be extended Palestine ports.) (C.W. to C. in C., Med., 2038/26).

S.S. THESEUS (Dutch) B.C. Barcelona, reports although THESEUS was instructed to proceed Gibraltar weeks ago vessel still there as Dutch Minister, Madrid, declines to authorise departure. He requests Dutch Minister be persuaded to release, as danger of losing vessel is increasing. (S.O.I., Gib., 1520/26)

Movements. My 1247/25 being passed to GARLAND, VAMPIRE and Capt. (D) 10. For 14th D.F. read ANUBIAN, MOHAWK, VAMPIRE and GARLAND. (C. in C., Med., 1247/26).

Danish Desertions. Crew of Danish ship NICOLINE MAERSK deserted at Marseilles within past few days. I instructed Master to sign on any crew possible and sail for Gibraltar. Have guaranteed any expenditure. (F.O.I.C., Malta, 1416/26).

Contraband Control, France. My 1314/18. Normal contraband control is to be exercised on all cargoes destined for France but not for those destined for French overseas possessions Japanese ships which left Japan before June 18 for ports in unoccupied France are to be allowed to proceed. (D.E.W.D., 1813/26).

Jamming Propaganda. Extensive broadcast propaganda to native population in Middle East is being broadcast (details of transmissions). Ambassador, Cairo, has asked that these transmissions may be jammed by Malta W/T statio if possible. Fully realised that service W/T traffi must take precedence, but subject to this, request information whether arrangements could be made to jam. (Hd. of M., to F.O.I.C., Malta, 1214/26)

War Diary

26.6.40
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Contraband Control, Turkey. Repetition of my 0345/19, 0231/19, and telegrams Nos. 27 and 28, June 13, to F.O., from Ambassador, Ankara, and in particular para. 7 of the latter. It appears Turkey might be induced to institute some form of contraband control if diplomatic relations are broken off. It could be suggested such control need not be exercised against U.S.S.R. ships. It might also be worth stressing that failure to take action is not only failure to help Allies whom Turks profess to support but inflicting a severe disadvantage on them. (C.in C., Med., 2231/26).

Movements. Movement Summary No. 125. (C.in C., Med., 2345/26).

Air.

Swordfish. Swordfish A/C of 767 Sqdn. placed under Orders of A.O.C., Med., for operations against oil and air targets in Sicily unless required by C. in C., Med., for other operations. (D.N.A.D. 1752/26 to C. in C., Med.)

Attacks on Sicily. Importance of attacks on oil targets in Sicily starting as soon as possible (Air Min. to Malta 2015 G.M.T/26) (List of targets :- Messina, Palermo, Augusta, Catania.)

Malta. 2 Air raids a.m. 26/6. No military damage or casualties were caused. (I.C. 0494/40)

5 raids were reported on 26/6, Kalafrana, Hal Far and Luza aerodromes bombed, dockyard attacked from 16,000 ft. and a school at the dockyard slightly damaged. Severe storm at night blew down R.D.F. mast. (Air Min. D.S., 343)

Mining

An area within 2 miles of 38°50' N., 09°03'18" E., S. of Sardinia, is mined (I.C., 0494/40)

Enemy Intelligence

Main Fleet N.A., Rome, saw 3 Italian battleships CAVOUR class, 2 TRENTO class cruisers, 2 other cruisers, 10 destroyers south of Sardinia steering east 1930 June 23., S.O.(1) Gibraltar. (N.A.Lisbon, 1801/26) (I.C., 0494/40)

Spain. Oil. Information re oil and petrol in Spanish territory urgently required. (D.N.I., to N.A., Madrid 1943/26

War Diary

26.6.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Visit to Saigon

My 0941/25. French Admiral wishes me to visit him in Saigon. Expect to arrive 28/6 for 24 hours. Hope to guage reliability of French in Indo-China. It is realised, however, that they will probably ask me our intentions should Japan attack Indo-China (C. in C., China, 09322/26)

Gift of Patrol V.

Singapore Harbour Board offered 2 Fairmile type patrol vessels as free gifts to R.N. Intend to accept on behalf of Admty. unless instructions to contrary received 30/6. (F.O.C., Singapore, 09457/26)

America & West Indies

Shipping Routes

Re incorrect routes from Gibraltar, entailing excessive steaming distance. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0941/26)

War Diary

26.6.1940.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

COLOMBO — Programme from Mombasa 27/6- 1/7 (C. in C., E.I. 0529Z/26)

KENT — Escorting group 2 Convoy C.M. due Mombasa 0900Z/28 (C. in C., 0529Z/26)

CARTHAGE — To leave Mombasa 27/6 fro Diego Saurez to embark provisions, wine and mails for French CARAIBE. While at Diego Saurez to give heart to local authorities and assure them British Navy will give every possible assistance in defence of Colony should it be threatened. (C. in C., E.I. 0753/26)

Convoys — In addition to Convoy W.S.1., is another sailing shortly via Cape for India or Suez. (?) War Office telephone 73410 (?) of June 8 informed C. in C.,India that such a convoy containing 18,000 personnel mostly for Middle East (expected to?) leave U.K. on or about 24/6 (C. in C., E.I. 1131Z/26 to Admty.)

Enemy Submarine — C. in C., Med., 0201. S.N.O. Red Sea 1515/2 is being passed to C. in C., Med. Although I would like to retain this S/M for reconnaissance and A/S training, do not consider she can be satisfactorily refitted on East Indies Station for active service, nor is a trained crew available. Stemming party can be provided to take ship to Suez. If equipment is to be dismantled, recommend it be done at a port with better facilities and less deficiencies that at Aden. (C. in C., E.I. 1133Z/26)

Movements.

Sail at 2230Z at 27 knots to look for wreckage and for Italian destroyer. KANDAHAR and KINGSTON join me off Perim 0300 Z/27. FLAMINGO to Perim Patrol. (LEANDER, 2051Z/26, to KANDAHAR, KINGSTON, FLAMINGO)

WAR DIARY.

26.6.40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

NORBURG.	Arrived Braila (Magal, Galatzi 1147/26).
DUISBURG.	Loaded German tanker, believed to be DUISBURG (?) sailed today. (Consul, Gothenburg 1754/26.)
RHAKOTIS.	At Antofagasta, was on June 4 arranging to dispose of her cargo of timber and potassium nitrate (I.C.,0494/40).
HERMONTHIS.	At Callao, on June 1 was selling her cargo of timber (I.C., 0494/40.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FIUME.	At Rhodes (cable intercept) 12/6.
LE CONTE DE LISLE.	Sailed for Diego Suarez June 25. (Brit. Consul, Tananarivo,1900/26.).
CONTE VERDE. CONTE BIANCAMANO.	Intercepted message by Matara W/T station. Appears intention might be to proceed Ciudad Trujillo, funds being for Canal dues. (S.O.I., Colombo, 0623Z/26.)
JOLE FASSIO.	Now in port Puerto Cabello. (S.O.I., Kingston, 2107/26).
BACICIN PADRE.	Venezuelan authorities likely to move from Puerto Cabello to Turiamo. (S.O.I., Kingston, 2107/26.)
CAPO ROSA.	At Buenos Aires, reported on June 24 suppliers of naptha cargo were asserting the ship on 25/6 (I.C., 0494/40).
CONTE ROSSO.	Reported (Press) arrived with British Embassy staff at Lisbon 26/6.(I.C.,0494/40)

WAR DIARY.

26.6.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

S/M's reported.

0213 GMT.	A.F. message 37.16' N., 4.45' E. (D.D.I.C. 0355/26.)
1349.	D.F., 58.30' N., 11.30' W. unreliable fix, probably U-boat (D.D.I.C. 1411/26.)
0930	D.F., 46.50' N., 12.40' W., reliable fix, probably U-boat (D.D.I.C. 1002/26.)
1119	D.F., 61.10' N., 3.20' E., reliable fix, unknown enemy unit. (D.D.I.C. 1146/26).
2022.	D.F., unknown enemy unit, unreliable fix, 60.45' N., 3.35' E. (D.D.I.C., 2044/26).
1900 GMT.	A.F. message, 35.53' N., 1.54' W. (D.D.I.C., 2301/26).

Estimated dispositions:-

1 in Finisterre area.
1 in 46 degrees 50' N. 12 degrees.40' W. at 0930/26, possibly moving southwards.
2 in Bay of Biscay.
2 in Western Approaches.
1 off S.W. Ireland outward bound.
1 W. of Ireland homeward bound.
1 N.W. of Ireland outward bound.
1 N.W. of Hebrides homeward bound.
1 N. of Scotland homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C., 1238/26.)

WAR DIARY.

26.6.40.
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING
Mediterranean

Ships attacked.

BARON NEWLANDS. shelled. — 8888 37.16' N., 04.45' E., being shelled (Lands End, 0213/26) (Gibraltar W/T, 0215/26) I.C.0493/40)

BARON ERSKINE shelled. — 8888 37.16' N., 04.45' E., 16 miles North Cape Sigle, Algeria, being shelled, (Gibraltar W/T, 0231/26) (I.C.,0493/40) (Lands End Radio 0232/26).

CYDONIA, escaped. — British, attacked 36.54' N., 01.54' W., 3 miles S. of Mesa de Roldan, S.E.Spain. (D.S., 296) (Gibraltar W/T Stn., 2017/26). Escaped. (CYDONIA, 2147/26) (I.C.,0494/40 gives position 35°53' N., 1°54' W., about 13' N.E. of Cape de Gata.)

S/M's Reported. — Indications that Italian U-boats are occupying patrol area centred on 35°40' N., 23°10' E. U-boat probably based on Leros and may leave patrol 1900 July 3 routed through approximate position 36°40' N., 25°42' E. (C.in C. Med., to PROTEUS, 1011/26).
At 2330/25 patrol launch of submarine cable at Porta Delgada sighted a submarine on surface, submerged soon after (A.O. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 2016/26).

S/M's attacked.

1700/26. By KINGSTON believed destroyed. — H.M.S.KINGSTON reports having attacked an Italian U-boat with guns and depth charges in position 14°26' N., 41°23' E., at about 17002/26. Destruction considered probable. (C.in C. E.I.20152/26.)

-/26.

U/B bombed by aircraft in Assab Harbour 13°N., 42°40' E., Red Sea on 26/6. (I.C. 0494/40) 3 Blenheims made a dive-bombing attack. Nearest bomb fell 20 yards from target and no damage was observed (Air.Min. D.S., No.3 x 3).

War Diary

27.6.1940.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

French Fleet
The French Mediterranean Squadron is remaining at Alexandria.

RICHELIEU did not enter Dakar. The French Admiral informed C. in C., S.A. that he had ordered RICHELIEU to meet French A.M.C and possibly some destroyers coming from the Northward and escort them to Dakar. DORSETSHIRE recovered her missing Walrus at 1107/27, and with H HERMES is searching for RICHELIEU. C. in C., S.A. in ALBATROSS is at Dakar.

BEARN (A/C carrier bringing aircraft from U.S.A.) and JEANNE d'ARC arrived at Martinique at 0700 Q DUNEDIN is in the harbour and FIJI remains outside the port

France

All neutral shipping in the Gironde was rounded up by BROKE, VANQUISHER and WINCHELSEA by 0030/27 and only French ships now remain there. R.A. Burges Watson in BROKE is patrolling off the Gironde.

E-Boats

E-boats were reported at 2307 by GREYHOUND, patrolling in Dover Strait, near South Colbert Buoy (between Boulogne and Dungeness) The E-boats retired.

Enemy Shipping

Up to 1200 on June 26 it was known that 68 German merchantmen of 382,548 tons had been sunk or scuttled: 58 of 259,122 tons had been captured or seized and that 41 unidentified ships of approximately 205,000 tons had been reported sunk by submarine or aircraft- in all 167 ships of over 846,000 tons. At the same time itvwas known that 11 Italian merchantmen of 67,306 tons had been sunk or scuttled and 29 others of 156,629 tons captured or detained- in all 40 ships of 224,435 tons.

WILK in collision with U-Boat

WILK reports that she collided with a submerged object, probably a submarine, at 0025/20 midway between Lister and Newcastle. Information has been received that a U-boat made a long signal at 1630/20 from a position 22 miles from that where the collision occured.

War Diary

27.6.1940.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT Contd.

AIR

The enemy carried out further bombing raids last night over the U.K., extending from Aberdeen to the New Forest area, bombs being dropped over a wide area in the North East, Midlands, East Anglia and the South Western counties and South Wales. Damage to property appears to have been slight and there were very few casualties.

Last night R.A.F. successfully bombed aerodromes at Waalhaven, Bourn, Schipol and Laugen Lagen the Docks at Willemsoord and the Dortmund-Ems Canal, where hits were obtained on the banks. Bombs aimed at a ship in the Kiel Canal hit the Canal banks.

The main effort of Coastal Command was concentrated on anti-invasion patrols.

Aircraft attacked a U-boat 100 miles N.W. of Cape Wrath early today and estimate several hits.

Photographs show no activity or shipping or barge concentration in Bruges or South Beveland Canals.
At 1645/27 more than 40 barges, each about 300 ft long were seen being manoeuvred from Volder, westward across the Zuyder Zee toward Enkhuizen.

Mining

Parachute mines were seen to drop off the entrance to Blyth harbour and Coquet Island early today. The ports of Amble and Blyth have been closed.

Sunderland and Hartlepool have been reopened. The Port of Aukland, which was closed as the result of enemy mining has been reopened.

Gardening was carried out across Pelmman Bolt

War Diary

27.6.1940.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Italian Hostilities

C. in C., Mediterranian has arranged for convoys to run from Malta and the Aegean Sea to Alexandria. The 7th C.S. (5 ships) and 5 destroyers, and 3rd C.S. (2 ships) and 4 destroyers are providing cover.

There were 2 air raids on Malta today; no casualties were caused and there was no damage.

ODIN — ODIN is overdue from Patrol in the Eastern Mediterranean and must be considered lost.

ORPHEUS — ORPHEUS failed to return yesterday from patrol off the Libyan Coast and has not acknowledged signals ordering her to return.

Air A/S patrols and reconnaissances were unavoidably curtailed owing to the necessity of ascertaining the whereabouts of the French Fleet in North African ports and their movements in the western Mediterranean.

War Diary

27.6.1940 -
Thursday

FRENCH FLEET

RICHELIEU — The following signals are precised in the Operations Volume.
C. in C., S.A. 0942/27, 1431/27, 1st S.L. 2343/27 to C. in C., S.A.)

HARVAL — F.O.I.C. Malta 1311/27.

Alexandria — 1st. S.L. 1815/27 to C. in C., Med.

BEARN / JEANNE D'ARC — Arrived Martinique 0700 Q (DUNEDIN 0701Q/27)

2 ELAN / 1 HARDI — 2 Escort vessels ELAN class and 1 destroyer HARDI class arrived Casablanca 1630 from N.W. (WATCHMAN 101 (?) Q/27)

DORSETSHIRE — My position course and speed are at 2000Z plus one 016 degrees 12' North 017 degrees. 21' West 245 degrees, 15 knots. Intend to pass Dakar Boom 0730 zone plus one tomorrow Friday 28th June. (DORSETSHIRE 2100Z/27 to C. in C., S.A.)

JEAN BART — Your 1212/26 Armament is incomplete and it is unlikely that any ammunition is on board. (D.O.D. (F) 0201/27 to F.O.C.N.A. and RESOLUTION)

Casablanca — ~~Admirals~~ Arrived (WATCHMAN 1910/27)

EMILE BERTIN — See America & West Indies.

RICHELIEU — My 0942/27 (not yet recd. in Admty) Aircraft reports RICHELIEU and French destroyer FLEURET in position 15.15'N., 17.45'W., course 000 degs., at 0904/27. Admiral Dakar informs me he gave orders for RICHELIEU to proceed to sea to meet five or more French A.M.C's and possibly some destroyers to escort them to Dakar where they are expected to arrive p.m. today. B.N.L.O., Dakar, was aware movements of A.M.C.'s was intended and was communicated by signal to Dakar from Marine, Morocco. (C. in C., S.A., 1046/27)

War Diary

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Enemy reported to be buying all available small vessels Motors in Norway. A.2.
(Acting Consul Malmo. 1421/27 to D.N.I.)

Calais

P.D.U. Sortie shows some activity in Calais Gare Maritime but no Shipping present.
(P.D.U.I. 1857/27 to N.I.D.)

Zuider Zee

More than 40 barges, each about 300 feet long, in Zuider Zee, being manoeuvred at 1645/27 from N.E. of Polder towards Enkhuizen (H.Q. Bomber Command 0306/28)

Boulogne

Five M/V's observed at 1135/27 (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1410/27)

Dunkirk

Three M/V's lying off harbour. Harbour appeared empty. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1410/27)

Light Tanks

Captain Field, Norwegian Army, reports Germans preparing many small Fishing Vessels each to carry a Light Tank which would be landed on almost any beach. Most preparations are at Trondheim, Bergen and Stavanger. (C. in C., Rosyth 1745/27 to Adty)

Propose to appoint suitable local persons as L.N.O. at certain smaller U.K. Ports to take naval charge in emergency (C. in C., W.A. 1813/26 to Admty)

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HOME COMMANDS

France

Gironde

Your 0031. Return to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A. 0742/27 to R.A. in BRONX)

Admty's 2000/22. HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, St. LAURENT, and SKEENA to be used as escort. After ceasing escort duty they are to return to Plymouth and proceed to South of Ireland to carry out A/S sweep. (C. in C., W.A. 1559/27 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Movements

Position of submarines and movements for following 24 hours 0800/28.
TRITON TRIDENT PRO HAVET RUBIS vicinity JSTS 2000 proceeding on surface to Dundee SNAPPER C one SEVENTH MEMBER 3030 SEALION C 3 proceeding submerged to C 4 TRIAD DEHI 3530 proceeding on surface to relieve TRIDENT H 31 A 5 leaving P M for Blyth STURGEON LSWY 3246 H 34 in H 2. L 26 escorted by Netherlands Torpedo boat Z 5 vicinity Peterhead proceeding Scapa. H 50 leaves Harwich P.M. to relieve H 34 TANGU leaves May Island 2300 to relieve TRITON (V.A.S. 1723/27)

Swedish Destroyers

ST. MAGNUS should be sent to bring their Crews to Kirkwall. The Destroyers should be given any necessary fuel. (D.O.D.H. 2355 to C. in C., H.F)

Operations

M.T.B's

All available large M.T.B's will carry out a sweep tonight with object of destroying enemy E-boats or M/V's off the Mouth of Scheldt. and Maas. Sweep will cease at 0200/28 and M.T.B's will return to base along latitude 52° N approximately. Aircraft will provide air protection from dawn. (Chatham 1300/27 to Admty) (C. in C., Nore 1543/27 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

R.M. Brigade

Brigadier reports Brigade not ready for operation until two million rounds of .303, fifty portable cookers, and two inch Mortar Bombs have been delivered. (N.O.I.C., Milford Haven 0946/27 to Admty)

War Diary

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Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

E- Boats

E-Boats Reported

Six Lights, apparently of/ six E-Boats, observed at 2317/27 at 52.48'N 3.25'E steering North.Lights about one mile apart. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0305/28)

2307 E-boats reported by GREYHOUND off Cape Gris Nez (I.C. 0495/40)

Air - British Air Activity

Halder

Seaplane Base bombed at 0240/27. Several explosions seen, but results uncertain. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0732/27)

2 Destroyers

HOWE class attacked by aircraft. 60. 0'N 9.30'E (Fro Havet) No hits (I.C. 0495/40)

M.V. on Rocks in Nord Fiord

Bombed see Enemy Intelligence.

Mining

Fees.

Port is now open. (N.C.I.C. Hartlepool 1431/27 to D.M.S.)

Enemy Intelligence

Ferry Steamer Sunk

Danish Copenhagen-Malmo Ferry Steamer reported sunk by mine while proceeding to Germany. A.4. (Actg. Consul Malmo, 1421/27 to D.N.I.)

E-Boats

See E-boats Section.
At 0110/27 a medium sized Ship observed at 3' East of Vlieland steering East. (T.H.I. 2118/27)

M.V. 5000 tons on rocks

with 2 small vessels doing salvage work, N. side of Nord Fiord, Bombed no hits. (Denibristle 1345/27)

M.V. Flying Norwegian Flag

One M/V at 0730 at 59.34'N 5.40'W about 3000 tons flying Norwegian Flag. No sign of armament. (Denibristle 0900/27 to C.I.C.)

2 Destroyers

Two Destroyers at 0430 at 64.N 9.30'E on a Southerly course A/C report. (V.A.S. 1054/27 to TRITON)

Shipping

RATONY, SOBIESKY, MONARCH OF BERMUDA required for special transport, escort REVENGE (D.O.D. (F) 1903/27)

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

FOSSA	British Tug, 105 tons. Now known to have run aground and been abandoned at 0230/2 off Dunkirk while on Govt. Charter. (D.S. 296)
ORPHEUS	ORPHEUS failed to return from patrol 26/6 has failed to acknowledge a subsequent signal (C. in C., Med. 1055/27)
ODIN	Regret ODIN must now be considered lost. (C. in C., Med. 1057/27)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Oran Refugees. GARTBRATTAN sailed for Gibraltar 1750/26 with 19 refugees on board. No other British ship here. (Oran, 0005/27).

French Liaison ended. Have received direct order from Nogues Chief of Staff to leave here with my mission. Have asked Gibraltar for transport either from here or Casablanca to Gibraltar. (No.3. (Dillon) Mil. Mission, 1023/27, received from W.O. at 1515/27).

ENTERPRISE Probably required to sail for Gibraltar 28 or 29/6. (D.O.D. (H) to C. in C.W.A., 1725/27)

French Ships. French steamships LIEUTENANT LOUBERT, BIR COMPIEGNE SAVOIE have received orders from French Naval attache, not from French Government, to sail within 24 hours for Casablanca. Master of first-named vessel will communicate his route if you decide to arrest his ship. (Lisbon, 1910/27, to Gibraltar).

Convoy Your 1306/26. If extra convoy is necessary, it should be called H.G.Y. and be routed as follows (details). (D.T.D., to F.O.C.N.A., 1631/27)

Spain. Defence works, Ferrol and Corunna districts. (Corunna, 1715/27)

Shipping. British Consul Lisbon's 1850/26. No ship available Gibraltar for intercepting. (S.O.1. Gibraltar, 0010/27).

Military Mission. Your A.M.339 27/6. Following from Admiral. Proceed Casablanca. Report your arrival to Consul and I will endeavour arrange transport. (Governor, Gibraltar, 1648/27 to No.3 (Dillon) Mil.Mission).

Shipping. My 0957/24. ATHLONE CASTLE not arrived. Is any other ship with large accommodation available immediately? (F.O.C.N.A., to Agent, D.of S.G.1301/28)

Gibraltar Dockyard. re Plans for Evacuation of staff likely to be useful elsewhere if Dockyard bombarded from land artillery sited in Spain. (A.S., Gibraltar, 1402/27).

South Atlantic

French Attitude. Bourdillon sailed for Nigeria June 19. He will no doubt pass through Freetown and you and Naval C. in C. may wish to confer with him. (Gov., Nigeria, 0217/27, to Gov., Sierra Leone and C. in C., S.A.)

DORSETSHIRE My position, course and speed are 15°43' N., 17°50' W. 024 deg., 23 knots. (DORSETSHIRE, to HERMES, 0015Z/27).
Report amount of fuel remaining. (C. in C.S.A., in ALBATROSS, to DORSETSHIRE, 0844/27) Reply (DORSET) SHIRE, 10552/27).

War Diary

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Ctd.)

A/C Recovered. Admty. 2215/26. Have recovered my aircraft in position 18° (?04') N., 16°44' W. Crew well. (DORSETSHIRE, 1107/27).

DELHI To return to Freetown with all despatch. (C. in C. S.A., 1621/27)

Madagascar. Governor-General reports colony has decided unanimously to remain French and continue struggle for final victory of France and her ally. (N.C.S.C. Duala to C. in C.S.A., 0912/27)

Aircraft. Aircraft are not to fly over Dakar. (C. in C.S.A. 1701/27)

Convoys B.C.S. B.C.F. Sailing times and requirements on arrival Freetown. (C. in C.S.A., 1331/27).

Mediterranean

General

French Attitude Irrevocable decision not yet made. Given assurance French officers joining British forces will retain present rank or if reservists previous rank held. (No. 8. (S. Jones) Mil. Mission, to C. in C.M.E., 1450/27).

Broadcast last night to effect Nogues holding out may be accurate but is misleading. Suggest there is danger in statement of this nature. (N.8. (S.Jones) Mil. Mission, to W.O. 1440/27)

French attitude Captain Robert of French Foreign Legion states has 1800 troops in Susa anxious to fight in Egypt or elsewhere if escort and ships can be provided. (F.O.I.C. Malta 2249/27)

Government policy as regards volunteers, especially French Officers, technicians and air service personnel. (War Office to C.in C.M.E., 2040/27)

PROTEUS Orders to, for return to Malta. (Capt.,S., Malta, 1713/27)

PANDORA Orders to, for return to Malta. (Capt.,S., Malta, 1710/27)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

General (Ctd.)

French Submarines. Possible some are at sea heading for British bases. Inter.Allied recognition signals possibly compromised, and strange submarines must be attacked on sight or detection, but possibility of being French should be borne in mind. A friendly submarine would be reluctant to dive when approached or fixed on. French submarines have two masts on which they might well hoist national flag. Italian submarines normally have only one. (C. in C.Med. 1451/27)

Special Operation. Your 1042/27. Vessels are required for a special operation of which you will be informed in due course. (V.C.N.S.1818/27 to C. in C. Med.)

Shipping Policy. Intended to carry out following shipping policy while naval situation remains as at present. Southbound Aegean convoys (AS) and northbound Aegean convoys (AN) to be run periodically to connect Red Sea convoy. Local convoys between Haifa, Port Said, Alexandria for oilers A.S.I.S. and transports to be run approximately weekly. Remaining shipping for Cypriot, Syrian, Palestinian and Egyptian ports to sail independently. When occasion demands a convoy will be run to Malta. (C. in C., Med., 1053/27).

Spain. Latest rumour is that June 29 will be date of Spain's entry into the war. Perhaps no special significance in this and no hurried preparations are evident, but it shows general conviction that war is inevitable. (Palma, Mallorca, 1750/27).

Turkey. Russian ultimatum to Roumania. Turkey will continue to perfect military preparations for defence and increase vigilancy. (N.A., Ankara, 1800/27)

At interview this morning with Turkish Foreign Minister he reaffirmed deplorable effect on neutral countries if any French ships now in British ports are allowed to sail even if Prize Court should be required to prevent them from leaving. (Ankara, 1830/27)

Convoy. Ships joining Convoy A.S.1. left tonight for R.V. off entrance to Dardanelles at 0700/28. (list). (N.C.S.O., Istanbul, 2225/27).

Wireless Jamming. Admty. 1214/26. Possible counteractions by Italian stations on transmissions of Malta W/T station, which are vital to effective prosecution of war in Mediterranean. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 1702/27)

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Thursday

FORSIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Air.

767 Sqdn. A.T. 1752/26. Consider 767 Sqdn. should be used for local reconnaissance, A/S patrols, as a torpedo striking force against surface forces which come within range, and as a reserve for EAGLE. Do not consider these slow aircraft (Swordfish) should be expended against targets in Sicily. Could not Air Ministry be persuaded to send some modern offensive and defensive aircraft to Malta? (C. in C. Med., 1643/27)

Algiers Ban. Following from 5th Air Army, Algiers, to H.Q., Mediterranean - An order forbids all flying in North Africa including Morocco, Tunisia and Algiers. Am advising that any British aircraft arriving French territory will not be allowed to proceed. (V.A., Malta, 1829/27).

Malta. Twice raided 27th. No casualties, no damage. (D.O.R., 298)

Patrols. A/S patrols and reconns. unavoidably curtailed owing necessity ascertain whereabouts, French Fleet North African ports and movements Western Mediterranean. Lord Gort and Mr. Duff Cooper left for U.K. at 0430 G.M.T. (200 Group to Air Min., 1705/27).

Warning of Attack. Admty. 2049/19. In Mediterranean warning of the approach of enemy aircraft towards the Fleet can only be given by outlying units such as outer air warning screen and detached ships. Under these circumstances guidance given in general signalling instructions considered most useful. (C. in C.Med.2232/27)

Enemy Intelligence.

Main Units. N.A. Rome reports that at 1935/23 he saw three Italian Battleships CAVOUR class, two TRENTO class Cruisers, two other Cruisers, and ten Destroyers south of Sardinia steering East. (D.C.0152/27 to C. in C. Med.)

Submarine patrols. Estimated main Italian naval units working Western Basin comprise 4 8-in. cruisers, 6 6-in. cruisers, 16 destroyers. Forces mentioned in Admty. C152/27 are probably units of eastern squadrons normally working from Taranto. Estimated number of submarines based western Italian ports is 60, and patrols are thought to exist off Barcelona, Cartagena north of Algiers and between Sicily and Tunis. (Capt. O.S., NILE, 1633/27)

War Diary

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Convoys

Convoy B.N.I. is 24 hours late. (C. in C., E.I., 0856Z/27). Owing to weather Convoy C.C. will not arrive Mombasa before daylight June 30. (C. in C.E.I 0857/27) C. in C. Middle East inquires whether vessels in B.N.I. can be used on homeward voyage from Suez for evacuation of families from Egypt. Request report. (D. of S.T., 2155/27)

Following from R.A.F., Middle East, addressed Air H.Q. Aden:- "No. A.88, 25/6. Italians have broadcast particulars of British prisoners, and have requested reciprocal action. Request instructions in view of C. in C.E.I., 0651/22. (N.O.I.C., Aden, 0928/27).

Submarines sunk, Information, Prisoners.

N.O.I.C. Aden 0928/27. My 0651/22 was not to Admiralty. I am averse to this proposal being adopted yet as regards naval prisoners on East Indies Station. It would at once reveal name ofsubmarines sunk and their locality which I have been at pains to avoid doing. N.O.I.C., Aden, inform A.O.C., Aden, and request him to take no action as regards naval prisoners. (C. in C., E.I., 1447Z/27).

Troops, Berbera.

Date of sailing of troops in Berbera movement from Mombasa. (N.O.I.C., Kilindini, 0843/27).

Troops from India.

Request report re units to embark in TAKLIWA. (D. of S.T., to N.O.I.C., Kilindini, etc., 2329/27). Your 2329. TAKLIWA must arrive Bombay by (date mentioned) to effect this. (C. in C.E.I., to D. of S.T., 1038/28)

China.

My 0932/26. Governor-General Indo-China is coming to Saigon especially to meet me. (C. in C.China 0520Z/27 to Adty.)

America and West Indies

EMILE BERTIN

Admty. 1538/26 communicated to EMILE BERTON and Admiral Robert. Latter has undertaken to assure C. in C., A.W.I. that having no instructions from France he has ordered disembarkation at Martinique. Consider further undesirable. (DUNEDIN, 1824/27, to Admty.)
Consider FIJI should arrive at Martinique 1700Q tomorrow. Friendly presence of both ships desirable FIJI to fuel at St. Lucia as soon as situation permit: (DUNEDIN to C. in C., A.W.I., 1848/27). FIJI to comply with DUNEDIN's 1848/27. DUNEDIN inform Admiral Robert. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2202/27)

War Diary

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

FURIOUS — Admty. 1755/25. Additional Curtiss not available. Expect to embark 10 additional Brewsters making 20 in all by July 1, estimated sailing date. (F.O.C 3 B.S., 2131/27)

U.S. Fleet. — Admty. 2059/26. Movements of U.S. Fleet are for manoeuvres. (N.A. Washington, 1205/27)

Coal shortage. — Shortage in Punta Arenas acute. CONDELL unable to leave moorings, other 3 patrol vessels endurance halved. (N.A. Santiago de Chile, 1651/27)

New Zealand

Auckland Re-opened. — The Port of Auckland, which was closed owing to enemy mining, has been re-opened. (.I.C. 0494/40)

War Diary

27.6.40
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DUISBURG	Tanker, reported arrived Gothenburg 26/6 (I.C.0495/40)
VULKAN	Reported arrived Gothenburg (I.C. 0495/40) (Gottenburg 1503/27)
BESSEL	Vigo, reported loaded extra fresh provisions (I.C. 0495/40)
USARAMO	Vigo, reported received 2 lorry loads of goods from Madrid last week. (.I.C. 0495/40)
BRAKE	Vigo, now painted grey and has transferred 80 drums lubricating oil to tanker, MAX ALBRECHT at Ferrol. (I.C. 0495/40)
LA PLATA	Vigo, transferring 800 tons of iron from her cargo to JOAO PESSOA (I.C. 0495/40)
JOAO PESSOA	Vigo; Rumoured intending to sail. (.I.C. 0495/40)
MAX ALBRECHT	Ferrol rumoured intending to sail (.I.C. 0495/40) (Consul, Vigo, 1737/27)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

EURO.	4687 tons, sequestered in Hampton Roads for debt to Asiatic Petroleum Company. This is 8th Italian ship against which A.P.C. has taken proceedings since Italy entered war. (D.S., 296)
JOLE FASSIO	5169 tons, has arrived at Puerto Cabello. (D.S., 296)
BACICIN Padre.	5591 tons, anchored in Bay at Puerto Cabello, likely to be moved by Venezuelan authorities to Turiamo. (D.S., 296)

War Diary

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Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported

0500 — By aircraft 51.54'N., 1.22'E 3 miles S.E. Dover course south. BONEAS to investigate (V.A.Dover, 0626/27) (I.C. 0494/40)

Motor A/S boats 07 and 09 are leaving harbour now to join in search. (V.A.Dover, 0717/27) GREYHOUND to join in hunt. (N.O.I.C. Dover 1214/27)

1048 — Bay Aircraft 60.24' N., 05.59'W., about 112 m. N.N.W. from Cape Wrath, Sutherland. (D.S., 296)

0826 — Possibly in North Channel, position indefinite. (I.C., 0494/40) ATHERSTONE, PEGUE and GLEANER despatched to hunt. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1401/27)

0700 — See Submarines Attacked.

1600 G.M.T. — A.F. message. 50.09N., 13.46 W (D.D.I.C. 0057/28)

1125 — D.F., unknown enemy unit probable U-boat, at 1125/27, 49.N., 9.40'W unreliable fix. (Devils Point W/T 1156/27, C. in C., W.A. 1303/27) I.C. 0495 gives position 47.30N., 9.30 W, 224° Lands End 214'

1205 — Suspicious submarine sighted apparently steering north 025 east.

1446 — 44.56'N., 13.42'W 1200/27 (ss. DEUCALION, to Lands End Radio, Plymouth A.C.H.Q., 1346/27 G.M.T. A.C.W.A., 1539/27)

1355 — 1 Submarine bearing 320° distance unknown in position 298 M. Ronaldsay 114. (NORTHERN ISLES, 1355/27)

1130 — 58.32 N., 2.50 W., reported from shore. (H.Q.C.C. 1745/27)

S.Ms./27 — 48.47 N., 07.59 W., 118 miles S.W. Land's End. reported by survivors of s.s. PRUDELLA (D.S. 297) (I.C., 0495/40) VERSATILE and other destroyers ordered to search, keeping look out for raft, boat and U-boat (C. in C., 2023/27)

1912 — Between Orkneys and Norway, indefinite position of U/B homeward bound.

0806 — Crossing observed on Loop No 13, speed 3 knots (Dover Loop Station, 0806/27)

1156 — U/B report, Admty., 1156/27, Cancelled (C. in C., W.A., 1301/27).

2346 — D.F., unreliable fix. 57.30'N., 09.00' W.,

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported, Contd.

Estimated Dispositions

1 in Finisterre area
1 off Cape St. Vincent, may still be far out.
1 in Bay of Biscay.
1 in Western Approaches.
1 (possibly) in North Channel,
1 S.W. of Hebrides homward bound
1 N. of Scotland homeward bound.
1 N. of Shetland homeward bound.
1 Northern North Sea homeward bound
(I.C., 0494/40)

Submarines Attacked

0700 — 60.24'N 5.59'W Attacked by aircraft Result unknown. (C. in C., Rosyth 1022/27) Four 100 lb A/S bombs dropped 3 points to port bow. Two exploded about 20 ft from where periscope had last been seen, other two some 15 ft further ahead course of submarine. Oil visible almost immediately. (Denibristle, 1013/27, F.O.C.O.S., 1043/27)

1415 — By NORTHERN ISLES in position 60.20' N., 5. 48'W 347. Cape Wrath 106' (NORTHERN ISLES, 1415/27) Attacked contact 16' from aircraft attack at 0700/27 (I.C., 0495/40)

Ships Attacked - Mediterranean & East Indies

PATHAN — Royal Indian Navy. F.O.C. R.I.N. has concluded that the loss of PATHAN was due to mine or torpedo. (D.O.R., 298)

Submarines Reported

1837 — 33.47 N., 27.30 E., 200 miles N.W. Alexandria. Reported by destroyer DAINTY. (DAINTY 1837/27)

Submarines Attacked

D.H./26 — By aircraft off Malta, approx position 35.45'N., 14.40'E., no apparent success. (I.C., 0495/40)

War Diary

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Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

LETITIA
Sunk

Dutch, 2580 tons, sunk at 1700 in position 50.09'N., 13.46 W., 170 miles S.W. of Cape Clear 2 U-Boats reported in vicinity, HAVELOCK and HURRICANE searching. (Capt. (D)9 2116/27)

REET

Estonian, 827 tons Tees to Gothenburg with coal reported missing by Lloyds, presumed lost. (D.O.R., 298)

Danish-Copenhagen-Malmo ferry steamer reported sunk by mine while proceeding to Germany (A.4) (Acting Consul, Malmo, 1421/27)

LILY

Danish, 1381 tons, from Fowey to Preston with China clay, reported missing by Lloyds, presumed lost, (D.O.R., 298)

War Diary

28.6.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

French Fleet

DORSETSHIRE located RICHELIEU at 0400/28 10 miles off Dakar and HOOD and ARK ROYAL who left Gibraltar to join the search were ordered to return to base. RICHELIEU entered Dakar, but DORSETSHIRE was requested not to do so by the French Authorities, and she refuelled at Freetown.

EMILE BERTIN is said to have commenced unloading today at Fort de France. DUNEDIN was informed that it is intended to unload BEARN's aircraft at Guadeloupe before sending her back to France; DUNEDIN is to follow her to Guadeloupe. FIJI remains off Fort de France.

C. in C., China arrived at Saigon today for a brief visit.

British Naval Movements

ARETHUSA, flying the flag of V.A. Force H left Portsmouth 1500/28 for Gibraltar, where she is expected at 1800/30.

Air

Enemy aircraft again visited the U.K. last night, some 90 machines being engaged in dropping bombs over a wide area in southern Scotland, Northern Counties, Midland Area, East Anglia and the South Western Counties. Some damage was caused near Scunthorpe, but elsewhere damage was little and casualties were slight. Jersey and Guernsey harbour were bombed this evening. SS ISLE OF SARK attacked the raiders with AA fire. She was due to sail at 2200, and aircraft were sent to provide protection.

Willemsoord was attacked at 0240. Hits were made in the dock area. Fires and a large explosion were seen. Bombs were dropped off May Island and in the Firth of Forth, where it was estimated 5 or 7 aircraft were involved.

/At 1900/28.....

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Friday

SITUATION REPORT Contd.

At 1900/28. Jersey and Guernsey were bombed. Vehicles at the harbour and harbour sheds were set on fire and destroyed. 23 people were killed and 36 wounded. A small steamer was bombed but not hit outside Guernsey.

Gardening was carried out in the Kiel Area.

Mining:

Humber and Amble are closed. Blyth and Tees are open.

Preparations for Invasion

Although there is no convincing evidence, there are signs that must not be ignored that preparations are being made in Norway and Flanders for the launching of a sea-borne expedition supported by aircraft.

Several reports indicate an invasion date early in July. (C. I. C., Report No 28)

Reports tend to indicate that German troops in Norway are being reinforced and considerable numbers of parachute troops are also there.

It is considered that there are sufficient aerodromes in existance or under construction in Norway to permit of the assembly of an air-borne expedition, or to provide cover for a sea borne expedition.

Shipping is plentiful in the Baltic ports of Germany and Denmark. It is not known whether a sea borne expedition is being prepared.

Movement and concentration of barges and small craft, have been noticed in Holland and Belgium which do not entirely agree with commercial movements. These may be in connection with the occupation, but the possibility exists that stores are being brought down to advanced bases for invasion and that coasters, and perhaps some barges, are possibly being collected for direct invasion.

/German Air.....

War Diary

23.6.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT Contd.

German Air forces are being re-equipped with a view to very early concentration in Flanders and the North of France.
(C.I.C. Report No 29)

U-Boat Sunk

WHITE BEAR reports having sunk an enemy submarine at 1930/28, between the Isle of Lewis and the mainland.

U.S.S.R. Occupies Bessarabia

Rumania today accepted the ultimatum of the U.S.S.R. and troops of the latter occupied Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina.

Italian Hostilities

EAGLE, RAMILLIES, ROYAL SOVEREIGN and 7 destroyers left Alexandria today, to cover light forces at sea.

Italian Destroyer Sunk

A flying boat, patrolling in the Mediterranean, attacked an enemy submarine at 1150/28, about 150 miles South of Corfu, steering south, and at 1210 reported 3 enemy destroyers in that neighbourhood. At 1830 the 7th C.S. sighted the 3 enemy destroyers about 60 miles to S.E. of their previous position, and in the ensuing long range action sank 1 Italian destroyer.

Malta was bombed today by 6 aircraft, one of which was shot down by a gladiator.

23/6 Marsa Matruh was heavily bombed. 60 hit were registered on the aerodrome, which has been rendered unserviceable. Gladiator aircraft again failed to intercept because of inferior performance.

The Italian Govt. has announced that it will abidedby International agreements prohibiting the use of bacteriological means of warfare and of poison gas.

WAR DIARY. HOME COMMANDS. 28.6.40. Friday

Defence of U.K

18th C.S.

If 18th C.S. to be available to repel Invasion South of the Wash, essential to use Humber or Portsmouth. Consider Portsmouth too far from C. in C. H.F. Prefer face risks of Humber to admission that cannot base Cruisers near East Coast. Decision must be matter for Admiralty. (C. in C. Nore 1214/28 to Admiralty.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M's.

Position 0600/29 and movements for following 24 hours.
TRITON TRIDENT Fro Havet.
TRIAD TAKU vicinity of W P T S and D K H I 5420 respectively both proceeding on surface to Fro Havet.
SNAPPER C 1.
SEA LION C. 4
SEVERN M B N D 3030
L 23 escorted by Netherlands Torpedo Boat Z 5, left Scapa 1800 28th June due Dundee 1000 29th June.
NARWHAL leaves Blyth 0700 unescorted on surface for Immingham and leaves Immingham 1700 29th June unescorted on surface Northwards.
STURGEON A 5
H 34 in H 2 leaving P.M. for Harwich.
H 50 North of Brownridge proceeding submerged by day to L S T S 1515.
H 31 B F W Y 0025 proceeding submerged by day to Blyth.
RUBIS proceeding on surface due Dundee A.M. from North East.
(V.A.(S) 1703/28).

My 0104/28. WARWICK and WALKER detailed to join Home Fleet, propose they should be used as part of escort for BARHAM.

C. in C. W.A. 2009/28. to C. in C. H.F.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Force H.

V.A. Sir J. Somerville will hoist flag today in ARETHUSA in command of Force H. (D.S.D. 1159/28 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operation NITWIT.

Carry out operation NITWIT tonight 28/29, 2 M. A/S.B's at C, 2 M.T.B's between Somme Bay and Boulogne
(V.A. Dover 1830/28 to D.I, BOREAS, C.F.D. A.C.C. 16 gp CAP, C. in C. Nore Adty)

WAR DIARY. HOME COMMANDS. 28.6.40. Friday

Operations

A/S S.F. Scilly and Ireland

When ready VERSATILE proceed to act as in my 1853/26 VIVACIOUS being ordered to rendezvous as requisite. VANQUISHER and WINCHELSEA act as A/S between Scilly and Ireland. (C. in C. W.A. 1221/28.).

H.M.S. VANQUISHER and H.M.S. WINCHELSEA returning to Plymouth for fuel. My position course and speed are 048° 05' North 008° 00' West 051° 12. (VANQUISHER 2000/28 to A.C.W.A.)

CODRINGTON shelled.

Off Boulogne see Air 29/6.

R.M. Brigade.

Reference 0001/26 from Admiralty. With the expection of one battalion who will remain temporarily ashore at Pembroke dock weing to poor accommodation in ST.BRIAC anticipate all loading including embarkation of other battalions will be completed by a.m. Mondaylst July. Brigade will be at six hours' notice from then. This will be confirmed. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1628/28.)

WAR DIARY. HOME COMMANDS. 28.6.40.
Friday

Air.

British air Activity.

Texel.

At 0240/28 dive-bombing attack on Willemsoord. Several hits and explosion caused. (Chatham 0855/28).

Enemy Air Activity.

TRIAD.

Bombed in 57°24'N. 0°36' by single A/C Patrol. No damage. (TRIAD 1120/28 to Admiralty.)

Guernsey.

Attacked by aircrafts (ISLE OF SARK 1806/28).

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining

One mine detonated by LL alongside Nab End Buoy (C. in C. Portsmouth 1850/28.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Two Cruisers or Destroyers 15 miles East of Balta Sound course 210 High speed. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1324/28 to F.O.C.O.S.)

It is reported from Gothenburg that USKO, Finnish 1876 tons, has been declared Prize of War by the Hamburg Prize Court. (D.S. 297.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Ocean Convoys.

Re routeing (D.T.D.1732/28).

War Diary

28.6.1940.
Friday

WEATHER

0500

AREA	WIND	VISIBILITY	OUTLOOK
North Sea	Light Variable	V. Good in North. Good but hazy in South.	Similar
Channel	Southerly Light	Good, local coastal fog	S. Moderate to fresh. Vis. Good to Moderate.
Western Approaches	S. Fresh	Good	Veering S.W. Mod. to Fresh. Vis. good, with local fog.
Horns Reef	Light Variable	Moderate to Good.	Similar
W. Coast Norway	S. Westerly Light to moderate	Very Good	Wind S. Fresh Vis Good.

WAR DIARY. CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. 28.6.40.
Friday

ARGUS.	Dragged ashore at Reykjavik. No damage apparent. (N.O. I/C Iceland 1355/28) Refloated (Reykjavik 0040/29.)
FRASER.	Report why after part of FRASER could not be towed back to harbour (V.C.N.S.1725/28 to C.S.2.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

HOOD) After refuelling to proceed towards Canary Islands
ARK ROYAL) at 20 knots. (D.O.D.(F) 0221/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

To return to Gibraltar (C.N.S., 0755/28 to V.A.A. and Hood).

Intend to put ARK ROYAL and HOOD and escorting destroyers at 4 hours' notice from 1000 tomorrow for at least 24 hours to deal with essential engine-room defects. (F.O.C.N.A. 1512/28)

Force "H" Admty. 1159/28. Intend transferring my flag to HOOD on arrival Gibraltar p.m. 30/6. (V.A., Force H, 1455/28, to Admty.)

WATCHMAN VELOX On relief by VELOX at 0600/29, off Casablanca, outside territorial waters, WATCHMAN to return to Gibraltar. Weather permitting, B.N.L.O., Brest, is to transfer to VELOX. (F.O.C.N.A., 1700/28)

Refugees Ships sailed with refugees for Liverpool (F.O.C.N.A. 1240/28, 2306/28)

French Volunteer. Commandant Aviateur Brevete Pigeaud wishes Gen. De Gaulle to know that he is here working for the cause. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 2040/28)

Passenger Ships 3 ships near Gibraltar (D. of S.T. 2028/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Force H. 1. A detached squadron known as Force H under command of V-A Sir James Somerville has been constituted as follows :-
ARK ROYAL, HOOD, RESOLUTION, VALIANT, ARETHUSA, FAULKNOR, FOX HOUND, FEARLESS, ESCAPADE, FORESTER, FORESIGHT, ESCORT.

2. The following ships will join Force H when they enter the limits of North Atlantic :- NELSON, ENTERPRISE, DELHI, FAME, FURY, ST. LAURENT, SKEENA.

3. Force H. will for the present be based at Gibraltar.

4. Subject to any instructions which may be given by Admiralty the tasks of Force H. will be :-

(a) To prevent units of the Italian Fleet from breaking out of the Mediterranean.
(b) To carry out offensive operations against the Italian Fleet and Italian coasts.
(Adty. 1724/28 to F.O's Home and Abroad.)

Re. 1724/28, 4(b). Inform Adty. in advance of your intentions regarding operations against Italian Coast.

2. 15th. D.F. is to be placed at your disposal for any operations for which destroyers immediately under your commands are not adequate.

War Diary

28.6.40
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic (Ctd.)

3. When Force H. is in harbour the destroyers attached to it are to assist in the patrol of the Straits of Gibraltar as required by F.O.C.N.A. (Adty. 1738/28 to S.O. Force H.)

South Atlantic

RICHELIEU Must be located (V.C.N.S. 0315/28 to C. in C.S.A.)

B.C. Convoy Ref. 2343/27. H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA is to escort combined B.C. Convoy H.M.S.CORNWALL to remain at Freetown until further orders. (C. in C.S.A., in ALBATROSS, 1745/28)

Convoy B.C.S. To proceed direct to Takoradi. CORNWALL to patrol within a radius of 150 miles of Takoradi while transports are in harbour. Further programme. (C. in C.S.A. 1201/28 to CORNWALL, and 1246/28 to N.C.S.O., Takoradi)

Signals Re signal to C. in C.S.A. from S.N.O. Simonstown, not received (April) (Hd. of M., 1125/28 to S.N.O., Simonstown).

South America Re his visit to Rio de Janeiro, and situation in South America. Ambassador considers any German move in Brazil would be strategically determined from Berlin and not initiated locally, further that such action would be simultaneous in all South American countries, might be coupled with Japanese action to occupy the American Fleet or coincide with any threat of entry of America into war. Interviewed Admiral Pickens of U.S.S. WICHITA. Both WICHITA and QUINCY will remain handy to Montevideo at least until July 19. Argentines have refused their offer of visit. (RASAD, 1848/28).

Japanese Vessels, Madagascar From known sailings the four Japanese ships mentioned plus 2 others would have been near Madagascar at time of this report. (D.D.I.C., 1711/28)

Convoy S.L.38. Cancel my 1735/25. Ocean route for S.L.38 (details (D.T.D., 1855/28).

DRAGON To sail from Walvis Bay for Lagos. (C. in C.S.A. 0951/28)

French Fleet Arrivals Dakar 28/6, RICHELIEU, cruisers MILAN, EPERVIER, destroyer FLEURET, A.M.C. EL D'JEZAIR, EL MANSOUR, EL KANTARA, VILLE D'ORAN, VILLE D'ALGER SCHOELCHER. (C. in C.S.A., 1540/28)

Dakar, ARUNDEL CASTLE S.S. ARUNDEL CASTLE, which called at Dakar for fuel on 27/6, was subject to long delay and obstruction because she had troops on board. She left on 28/6 without fuelling. (D.O.R. 300)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

General

Convoys — 7th Cruiser Sqdn. (5 ships) and 5 destroyers, 3rd Cruiser Sqdn. (2 ships) and 4 destroyers, are at sea in the Eastern Mediterranean to provide cover for convoys from Malta and Aegean Sea to Alexandria. (D.O.R. 298)

Malta Families. — re Evacuation of Malta families temporarily to Egypt pending decision as to further move. (War Office to C. in C., M.E., 1650/28)

Italian Transports — Middle East O/12659, 25/6, to War Office, para 2 does not correctly represent my view, which is that with present Mediterranean forces I cannot guarantee to prevent passage of transports from Italy to Libya. (C. in C., Med., to Admty., 2343/28)

Action, Destroyer Sunk. — As a result of flying boat reconnaissance, 7th Cruiser Sqdn. sighted 3 enemy destroyers in position 36°00' N., 21°00' E., at about 1830/28. Action ensured at long range, one Italian destroyer being sunk. (C. in C. Med. 0315/29) statement to local press (C. in C. Med., 1515/29)

Spanish Preparations — Naval officers and men on leave or without ship have been ordered to report for instructions. Many gun emplacements are being hastily constructed at Sant Ponsa Bay, mostly concealed in pine woods. (Consul, Palma, 1930/28).

Foreign Personnel — Realize your position about reception of Foreign Legion personnel. Every effort will be made to pass them on to Egypt. Regret situation in Middle East will not allow a British battalion to be sent from Egypt to Malta in spite of any French troops who may arrive in Egypt. (War Office to Governor, Malta, 1655/28)

Understand Foreign Legion personnel may be en route for Malta whence they will be passed on by Governor to Egypt. Please treat them on arrival in accordance policy already indicated in War Office telegram 74995, 27/6, for treatment of French from Syria. No question of sending British battalion from Egypt to Malta. (War Office, to C. in C., Middle East, 2130/28).

Greek Ship — Your 1729/27. Release Greek ship PETRAKIS NOMIKOS forthwith and instruct to proceed on her voyage. This step is to meet urgent representation of Minister at Athens. (C. in C., Med., to C.C.S.O., Port Said, 1800/28)

Your 1729/27. Greek PETRAKIS NOMIKOS is not to be allowed into Mediterranean pending further instructions. (D.E.W.D. 1638/28) to C.C.S.O., Port Said).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

General (Ctd.)

Poison Gas. Italian Govt. have stated that they will observe the prohibition of the use of poison and other gases and bacteriological methods of warfare. (Hd. of M., 1341/28)

Suez Canal Asking what is reaction of Suez Canal officials to present situation. (D.N.I., to S.B.N.O., Canal Area, 1802/28)

S/M Escape, Spain. Admty. 1938/26. S/M CAPPELLINI, Lt.Com. Cristiano Masi, was not interned but effecting repairs, 15 days allowed. Consider escape due to Spanish negligence but not bad faith. Believed returned Italy. (Madrid, 1638/27)

Air.

767Sqdn. Your 1643/27. Agreed that operations against enemy surface ships should be primary objective for Swordfish aircraft. It is, however, important that no opportunities should be lost of carrying out offensive operations against Italy. Operations by night over Sicily by Swordfish need not be expensive in aircraft. Casualties in recent night operations by Whitley and Swordfish aircraft at home have been very few, and indicate that slow speed is not a handicap at night. (5th S.L., to C. in C., Med., 1803/28)

Malta Raid. One raid today by 6 A/C. One bomber shot down by Gladiator. (F.O.I.C., Malta, 2113/28)

Mining

Off Tripoli Within 2 miles of 33°03'18" N., 13°16'36" E., (I.C. 0495/40)

Off Brindisi In area enclosed by 40°41'3" N., 18°10' E.
40°41'3" N., 18°11'2" E.
40°37'5" N., 18°10' E.
40°37'5" N., 18°11'2" E.

Off C. Spartivento, Sardinia Within 2 miles of 38°50' N., 8°56'36" E.

Enemy Intelligence

Destroyers. A/C report, 3 enemy destroyers bearing 148 deg., 25 miles, at 1210. (C. in C., Med., 1603/28)
37°05' N., 20°10' E., about 45' S.W. of Zante, at 1210/28 (I.C. 0496/40)

1

War Diary

28.6.40
Friday

FORRIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Bombay — Port temporarilyclosed to shipping. All other ports open. (Simla, official 28/6)

TAKLIWA. — Admty. 2329/27. Possible date of arrival at Bombay, and accommodation for troops. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 1049Z/23, to D. of S.T.)

Convoy B.N.I. — Now 48 hours late. (C. in C.N.I. 1443Z/28) Your 2155/27. No ships in B.N.I. Convoy are suitable for evacuation of families from Egypt. (P.S.T.O. Bombay 1206Z/28) to D. of S.T.)

C.O., Port Sudan. — My 1517/19. Request early decision whether Reporting Officer, Port Sudan, is to be appointed N.O.I.C., Fortress Commander, or both. (C. in C., E.I., 0603Z/28)

AMRA — Requesting confirmation if she has been released. (D. of S.T., to P.S.T.O., India, 2141/28).

China

Saigon Visit — Your 0932/26. Question raised is dealt with in most immediate reply which F.O. are making to Saigon telegram No.21 which is being repeated to you. You should extend your visit if necessary. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C. in C. China 2256/28)

America and West Indies

ILLUSTRIOUS — Requesting earliest date by which she can be considered worked up and efficient allowing for passage home. (5 S.L., to C. in C., A.W.I., 1805/28)

French Attitude — I make my last request to you to keep your ships in West Indies ports. If these return to French ports the enemy will surely use them against us. I ask you to consider the last part of Admiral Darlan's telegram of June 20. "Regardless of orders given to you, never to give up undamaged ships to the enemy". (C. in C. A.W.I., 2203/28)

Despite every effort by Governor, Trinidad, and self, Admiral Robert has declared himself bound to Bordeaux Government. He has today heard from Admiral De Laborde, now off French African Coast, that he intends to carry out armistice terms and undoubtedly Robert intends to do the same. Orders bearing Darlan's secret signature group were received from French Admiralty today saying no supplies or communications with the shore were to be afforded British warships in French ports. Robert does not intend to apply this order here. Also French Admiralty have warned French ships to be prepared for attack owing to hostile attitude of British Navy

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

French Attitude(Ctd.) Governor Trinidad is repeating his report to C. in C., A.W.I. (DUNEDIN, 1701/28).

Admty. 2201/27. Unloading of French cruiser EMILE BERTIN reported to have started today. French JEANNE D'ARC leaving for Guadeloupe tonight owing to congested harbour here. Chief of Staff informs me intention is to unload French A/C carrier BEARN's aircraft at Guadeloupe before sending her back to France. (DUNEDIN, 1702/28, amended 1245/29)

French Cargoes. No ships carrying shipment of cargoes of any description are to proceed to French West Indian possessions pending further instructions. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2231/28)

Enemy Broadcast re transmission by so-called New B.B.C. Station. (C. in C.A.W.I., 1803/28). Request information whether any abrupt change in signal strength occurred during this transmission. (D.N.I., 2004/29).

FURIOUS Sailing date (Admty. 0955/28, F.O.C. 3.B.S., 1028/28)

HEEMSKERCK Dutch. Left Halifax. Route to Falmouth (D.O.D.(H) 1308/28)

Australia

CANBERRA Intend to sail with British freight ship STRATHMORE for Cape Town (arrival date) (CANBERRA 0821Z/28 to A.C.N.B.)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DANZIG	Arrived with cargo of Resin. (Consul, Goteborg, 1545/28)
HAVELLAND	Left Manzanillo, Mexico, 27/6. (S.C.I., Kingston 1502/28)
ORINCCO	Tampico, preparing to sail (Press)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

PAMIA) PELLICE)	Prizes, proceeded from Methil to Leith, (I.C. 0495/40) taken over by British owners (N.C.I.C. Methil 1241/27)
MOSCARDIN) MUGNONE) BARBANA G)	Prizes, proceeded to the Tyne (I.C.0495/40) taken over by British owners (N.C.I.C.Methil 1241/27)
RECCO	Tanker, Tenriffe, loaded 8200 tons from America (I.C. 0495/40) tanker DUNGANNON
SANGRO	Tanker, Tenriffe, loaded 500 tons from America (I.C. 0495/40)
TAIGETE	Tanker, Tenriffe, loaded 300 tons from America (I.C.0495/40)
ARCOLA	Tanker, Tenriffe, loaded 497 tons from America (I.C.0495/40)
CONTE BIANCAMANO	My 1601/25. Panama report, ship deposited 60,000 dollars out of 380 thousand dollars required for release. (S.C.I., Kingston, 1051/28)
GERARCHIA	Still in San Nicolan, 1830/27. (S.C.I. Freetown, Sierra Leone, 1155/28)
RAPALLO	Toronto Company states pressure being put upon them to supply 600-700 tons of fuel. They will delay for 3 or 4 days, but owing to neutrality of Columbia they will have to fulfil contract. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1433/28)

War Diary

28.6.1940.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

EDGEHILL, R.F.A. — Torpedoed, 49.27' N., 15.25'W., (Gibraltar W/T, 2325/28). Torpedoed 2230/28 Not in Convoy. (D.O.R., 299)

LERIDA
Before 1431/28 — Norwegian, 4005 tons, wreck seen at 1930/28 about 170 miles S.W. of Bantry Bay. (D.S. 298) Reported torpedoed 50.N., 13.24'W., 240° Fastnet 167' (I.C., 0496/40) (25 survivors picked up)

Submarines Reported

0358 }
0433 } — D.F., enemy unit, prebably U/B, 52. N, 12.W unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 0238/28) A second transmission of same signal at 0433 indicates more likely position 50.50'N., 14. W (D.D.I.C., 0457/28) (A.C.W.A., 0519/28) (I.C. 0459/40)

0743 — D.F., enemy unit prebable U/B 52.N., 11. W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 0851/28) (I.C. 0495/40)

1500 — Sighted by French submarine NUBIS, 58.20' N., 3.07'E steering 130° (NUBIS, 1500/28) (V.A.S. 1421/30)

1640 and }
1716 } — Enemy submarine reported in position 47.30'N. 15.30'W (C. in C., W.A., 1836/28)

1710 — 39.58 N., 5.14'E. ROD EL FARAG chased (D.D.I.C. 1901/28)

2225 G.M.T. — A.F. message, 49.27' N., 15.25'W. (D.D.I.C., 0012/29)

2002 — 58.N., 4. E 270° The Naze 98' position approximate. (probably the same U/B as at 1500) (I.C. 0496/40)

1956 — 58.15' N., 4.30' E., 280° The Naze, position approximate. (probably ~~xxx~~ a different U/B) (I.C. 0496/40)

2300 — 57.30' N., 6. 30'E., 206° The Naze 38'., position indefinite (I.C. 0496/40)

War Diary

28.6.1940.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported, Contd.

Estimated dispositions:-

1 off Cape St. Vincent.

1 N.W. Finisterre or in Bay of Biscay.

1 in Bay of Biscay or Western Approaches

1 in Western Approaches.

2 S.W. of Ireland, of which one was approx 51.N 14.W at 0433/28 and the other, possibly northbound, in approx. 52. N., 11.W at 0743/28

Possibly 1 N. of Ireland

1 N. of Hebrides homeward bound

1 N or N.E. Shetlands homeward bound.

1 in Northern North SEA homeward bound, possibly about 59.N.,3.-4. E.

(I.C., 0495/40) (D.D.I.C. 1345/28)

Submarines Attacked

1930

Sunk enemy submarine position 58.23'30" N., 05.53'W., 113° Butt of Lewis 24' remaining in vicinity, 1930. (WHITE BEAR, 2327/28) Report means of attack and all evidence that U-boat was destroyed. (F.O.C.C.S., 0220/29, to WHITE BEAR)

Reply: Dark hours depth charged. Submarine blown to surface and seen to turn over and disappear. Oil patches observed, continued contact, range decreasing. Remain stationary. (WHITE BEAR, 0510/29) Remain in contact until FORTUNE arrives (F.O.C.C.S. 1455/29) Orders to FORTUNE (R.A.D., 1457/29)

War Diary

28.6.1940.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Mediterranean - Ships Attacked

ROD EL FARAG — Egyptian chased, submarine, 39.58'N., 5.14'E 1610 G.M.T. (Gibraltar W/T, 1714)
My s/m message, apparently all clear, (ROD EL FARAG, 1900/28) (D.D.I.C. 1901/28)
35' E of Minorca. (I.C., 0496/40)

Submarines Reported

1150 — By aircraft 37.31'N., 19.55'E (about 45' W of Zante) (See Attacks)

----/28 — 3 reported in Massawa Harbour, Red Sea, by aircraft. (D.S. 299)

Submarines Attacked

Details of attack by KINGSTON, and finding of wreck of U-boat beached in 14.26'., N 41.31'E., by LEANDER, which bombarded and claimed ? hits. 1 very near miss scored by Walrus. S.N.O. Red Sea confident that even if U-boat is not total loss she will be out of action for months. U-boat had one gun. Probably Italian submarine PERLA (C. in C., E.I. 0741Z (28) My 0741/28 para 1. The U-boat was not the same as that seen by R.A.F. further air reconnaissance is being carried out (S. in C., E.I., 0349/29)

Air patrol report attacking enemy submarine in 37.31' N., 19.55'E (about 45' W. of Zante steering 170 deg. at 1150. (C. in C., Med., 1603/28)

War Diary

28.6.1940.
Friday

FRENCH FLEET

HOOD
ARK ROYAL

After refuelling HOOD and ARK ROYAL proceed towards Canary Is. at 20 knots. Report time of leaving Gibraltar. (1st. S.L. 0221/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

RICHELIEU

RICHELIEU must be located (V.C.N.S. 0315/28, to C. in C., S.A.) I have RICHELIEU in sight 10 miles off Dakar (DORSETSHIRE, 0600/28)

HOOD
ARK ROYAL

Most immediate. Return to Gibraltar .(C.N.S. 0755/28 to V.A.A., HOOD)

EMILE BERTIN
JEANNE D'ARC
BEARN

Unloading of EMILE BERTIN reported to have started today. JEANNE D'ARC leaving for Guadeloupe tonight owing to congested harbour here. Chief of Staff informs me intention is to unload BEARN's aircraft at Guadeloupe before sending her back to France. Your 1731/18 part (ii) ? Request instructions (DUNEDIN 1702/28 to Admty)

Admiralty 1337 28th June. H.M.S. DUNEDIN shadow French Aircraft carrier BEARN. If French Aircraft Carrier BEARN proceeds to Guadaloupe H.M.S. DUNEDIN use discretion whether to follow her in or remain outside. H.M.S. FIJI maintain patrol off Fort de France taking opportunity for fuelling from LA CARRIERE under lee of Martinique. (C. in C., A.W.I. 2201/28 to DUNEDIN, FIJI)

Ships at
Falmouth

(All unimportant units) (N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1620/28)

Dakar

Most definite impression that as far as Admiral Plancon and Navy is concerned, pressure is being brought to bear by German influence in French Government to make them do all they can to deny use of Dakar to British Warships and Shipping

(b) A message was yesterday read to Naval and Air personnel purporting to come from French Admiralty and asserting Germany and Italy were only friends of France and that England was acting against her.

(c) I have been requested to stop use of aircraft of H.M. Ships at Dakar. In this connection RICHELIEU reported she had been shadowed by Naval aircraft. While agreeing with above restriction I have formally reserved right to use aircraft when necessary for A/S duties.

/(d)....

FRENCH FLEET

Dakar. Contd.

(d) Important British ships have been held up for fuel and water on various pretexts.

(e) Berth alongside for H.M. Ships will not be allowed in future.

4. My relations with Governor General and General Barrau (for whom I have great admiration and respect) have been and remain friendly and cordial. Neither of these officials has apparently received any such messages as that referred to in paragraph 3 (b) Nor has any change been suggested in official position of the B.M.L.O. This again bears out my opinion in paragraph 2 above and information in your 1910/26. The Admiral refuses to question authenticity of any signal he has received.

5. As far as Dakar is concerned therefore I consider
(a) We shall get no help from Naval Authorities as long as they submit to instructions purporting to come from French Admiralty.

(b) TheArmy, while friendly, will resist any attempt by us to assume control anywhere at the same time the General was emphatic that he would equally resist any attempted infringement of territorial rights of French West Africa by land sea or air by Germany and Italy. He maintained this would break terms of armistice.

(c) While a number of civilians are anxious to continue the war, large majority would resent our interference and only fight under the French flag.

6. The port of Dakar could I consider only be secured for our use by the goodwill of the Army and people ov by capture. Latter would necessitate employing powerful forces to be successful.

7. Request early instructions regarding use of Dakar by H.M. Ships and disposal of Air personnel and material at Cunakan aerodrome. (C. in C.,S.A. 0606/28 to Admty)

/ Admiral Dakar...

War Diary

28.6.1940.
Friday

FRENCH FLEET

Dakar

Admiral Dakar has refused permission for DORSETSHIRE to enter port and has requested she will comply with the orders he has received that H.M. Ships are not to use Port Dakar. I have ordered DORSETSHIRE to proceed with all despatch to Freetown to complete with fuel. Further signal will be made regarding my intentions. (C. in C., S.A. in ALBATROSS 1102/28 to Admty)

Bizerta

Following undertakings obtained verbally before leaving Bizerta. From Admiral Esteva that if orders for giving up Fleet or units were received from Government and not his chief he would not obey. From Prefect of Maritime that he would never give up Dockyards. Charges already in place to blow nerve centres. (B.N.L.O. Casablanca 1003/28 to Admty)

Following is joint opinion of all B.N.L.O's Mediterranean ports met Casablanca.

(1) French Army and Air Force at present much more determined than Navy to carry on war in North Africa and to resist attack, although no attempted resistance can be maintained without supply of munitions.

(2) French Navy. Morale of crews Dakar deteriorating, some ships have failing paid, others fear the same. British Government offer of pay and pensions probably not known by men. Promised terms published in papers today must have caused strong feelings. Pay and immediate lead would undoubtedly influence them to follow their officers who are unanimous in desiring to continue war.

(3) The Best form this lead could take would be arrival of British Squadron outside territorial waters Oran. Morale would then immediately improve and Admiral Commanding might launch last appeal to French Admiral and his C. O's. If French battleships put to sea all forces would probably follow suit.

(4) Reference B.N.L.O Sud's 1003/28 British Admiral could stress undertakings given by Admiral Esteva and Rivet which if carried out would render treaty null therefore French Admiral's action in taking fleet to sea would be in keeping with these undertakings. 1108/28.

Please pass my 1003/28 and my 1108/28 prefixed to C. in C., Mediterranean F.O. i/c Gibraltar (?) (Casablanca 1309/28 to Admty)

War Diary

28.6.1940.
Friday

FRENCH FLEET

RICHELIEU

My 1415/28 and Adty. 2343/27. Clause (ii) The object is to be in position to intercept RICHELIEU on receipt of information of sailing from Dakar, allowing for delay of 18 hours in communications. Cruising area must be outside range of French Naval seaplanes, a squadron of which has recently arrived Dakar, it should be to eastward of convoy route and westwards of coastal traffic and must be within intercept distance of RICHELIEU (C. in C., S.A. in ALBATROSS 1514/28 to C. in C., S.A.)Detailing position to which DORSETSHIRE is to proceed after fuelling. (C. in C., S.A. in ALBATROSS 1515/28)

War Diary

29.6.1940.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

British Naval Movements

HERMES was ordered to Dakar by C. in C., S.A. at 0600/29 to fuel and embark personnel and material from the aerodrome, sailing on completion.

NELSON and 4 destroyers left the Clyde this morning for Gibraltar. JERVIS with the new Governor and stores arrived at Gibraltar this morning.

There are insufficient minesweepers in the Humber to ensure the 18th C.S. getting to sea without delay. C. in C., Nore has informed C.S. 18 that his ships may use Sheerness or Southend instead of, or alternatively with, the Humber.

Preparations for Invasion

In Kiel Bay 29/6 there were about 16 small M.Vs stationary which appear to be loaded with several lighters or pontoons evidently of special construction. These pontoons were noticed being built at Kiel in large numbers on 7/4. They are loaded athwart ships and may be intended for landing operations. (J.I.C. Report 55)

Evidence continues to accumulate that Germany is making preparations for a seaborne invasion (do)

French Fleet

French Naval and Military personnel in the U.K are to be repatriated to French Morocco on 30/6 and 1/7. French warships in British Ports will remain there. There are very few warships at present in harbours in France.

M.T.B. Activity

A/S Trawler WELLARD was attacked by enemy M.T.B's 14 miles E. of Beachy Head at 0200/29. The attack was repulsed after 4 torpedoes had been fired at her. CODRINGTON, on the Dover Patrol was sent to search.
Four of our M.T.B's were operating from Dover during the night 28/29. Two of these struck wreckage and returned to port with minor damage.

War Diary

27.6.1940.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Air

CODRINGTON was bombed at Folkestone this morning Cardiff was bombed during night 28/29.

Reports indicate majority of long range bomber units will have completed refitting by 3/7. Fighter units appear to have reached a high state of serviceability. Air attcks by day must be anticipated from 1/7 though it is thought probable that attacks will not begin before 7/7. (Air Ministry D.S. 346)

An aircraft attacked a large barge north of Ostend at 0215/29. The barge blew up with a heavy explosion and is considered sunk, blocking the channel.

Amongst the targets attacked during the night 28/29 were Woalhave aerodrome, lock gates of the Dortmund Ems Canal new aqueduct, Flushing and Schipol aerodromes and Denok Seaplane Base, Abbeville aerodrome and targets on Heligoland.

Gardening was carried out in the Boulogne and Ymuiden areas by 6 Swordfish.

Mining

There appears to have been considerable enemy mine laying by aircraft between Farne Island and Seaham during the early hours of this morning. The sailing of MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE and SHEFFIELD for Immingham has been postponed.

The Tyne and Amble are closed and mines are suspected off Harwich, though the port is not closed. Humber has been reopened.

Up to date, 6 mines have been found in the approache to Aukland

Troop Convoy

B.N.I. escorted by CERES, bound for Aden, is 48 hours late. C.M. of 6 ships with West African Troops has been delayed and is expected Mombasa 30/6.

War Diary

29.6.1940.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Attitude of Spain

The Spanish authorities have forbidden Lloyd's Agents at Barcelona, Bilbao, Cadiz and Valencia, and at Las Palmas to report the movements of ships

Italian Hostilities

Two Italian U-boats were sunk 27/6 and two today, one of the latter by a Sunderland flying boat which picked up survivors.

ORPHEUS is overdue, and must be considered lost (D.C.N.S. 300)

C. in C., Med. believes that losses of submarines may be due to extensive defensive ~~xxxxxxx~~ Italian mine-laying even to depths of 200 fathoms, and steps have been taken to deal with this possibility (D.C.N.S. 300)

A/S air patrols were carried out from Malta and Gibraltar.

It is reported that strict orders have been given to Italian pilots against bombing non military objectives. (Air Min. D.S. 346)

War Diary

29.6.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

R/C Officer reports Falmouth suitable for three fixed Torpedo Tubes. Preliminary work in hand for Torquay, Dartmouth and Falmouth. Only six Tubes should be allocated to Southampton. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1744/29)

18th C.S. Rosyth

If you prefer it, I have no objection to your using Sheerness or Southend instead of or alternatively with, Humber. (C. in C., NRH 1508/29 to C.S. 18)

Movements

Position of Submarine at 0600/30 and movements for the following 24 hours are as follows: 0600/30 TRITON, TRIDENT Pro Havet TRIDENT leaving 1200 coastwise for Rosyth. TRIAD, TAKU vicinity of P.F.J.V. 30 00 and L.K.T.S. 15 20 proceeding on the surface to relieve TRIDENT, TRITON. SNAPPER C One SEALION C Four, SEVENTH M.B.N.D. 30 30 STURGEON and submarines H 50 in H One and H Two, Sub. H 31 B.F.Z.S. 3000, Sub H 34 C.P.T.S. 5520 proceeding submerged by day for Blyth and Harwich respectively. RUBIS due Dundee 0500 from N.E. NARWHAL due Immingham a.m. from Northward and leaves p.m. on surface Northwards. (V.A.S.S. 1828/29)

RUBIS

After arrival at Dundee, French submarine RUBIS to be detained there on some suitable excuse. (V.C.N.S. 0035/30 to V.A.S.)

Operations

Home Fleet at 1 hour's notice (See Enemy Intelligence)

Available Forces at Scapa and Rosyth are to come to short notice for steam. (D.C. 1956/29 to C. in C's. H.F. and Rosyth)

Fleet at Scapa is at one hours notice. Presume that in these and like circumstances three ships of the 18th C.S. at Rosyth will come under my orders. (C. in C., H.F. 2304/29 to Admty)

War Diary

29.6.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Faroe Islands

Your 1303/29 G.C. troops, B.C. and I agree landing of 100 unknown aliens in Faroes cannot be permitted.

Propose passengers remain on board PATRICIA and that destroyer's crew totalling 450 proceed to Kirkwall in ST. MAGNUS in two parties as they cannot all be accommodated in her at once. We urge Swedish Government be pressed to agree and to issue orders to Swedish Senior Officer accordingly without further delay. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 2030/29 to Admty.)

E-Boats

WELLAND Attacked

An being attacked by enemy E boats in position 0340 Beachy Head 14 miles (Intercept Scapa W/T 0210/29)
Two Dover destroyers on patrol and 2 M.T.B's from near Boulogne immediately moved but unable to intercept or locate enemy. Neither could 2 aircraft of 16 group on patrol (V.A. Dover 1030/29)

5 E-boats bombed. One destroyed

5 enemy torpedo boats in 53.31'N 5.20'E bearing 180° 25 miles at 0516. Bombed, no hits. 1 destroyer in same position course 035° speed 25 knots and appeared to be intercepting a French M.V. of 500 tons on same course. (A/C 0520/29, Donibristle 0810/29)

6 E-boats attacked by aircraft

6 E-Boats at 53.29'N ? longitude, attacked by aircraft at 2030. Course 240, speed 20 knots. Result unknown. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0005/30)

War Diary

29.6.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British air activity

E boats bombed See E boats

Havre Docks, Dernot Seaplane Base at Texel, and shipping bombed. Many barges observed at Calais Schokland, Zeuder Zee, and Amsterdam. (HQBC. Recd. 0152/30)

Enemy air activity

CODRINGTON

Bombed near Folkestone Gate (CODRINGTON 0658/29) No damage or casualties CODRINGTON at 1900/28 was ordered to attempt rescue of British airmen 7 miles W. of Boulogne. She was heavily and accurately shelled by 2 or 3 4" batteries at Pointe de la Creche and Le Portal, and retired. (V.A. Dover 1030/29) Air raid (N.O.I.C. Swansea 0815/29) Cancel 0815/29 (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 0915/29)

Your 1937/29. One enemy a/c dropped bombs off Peterhead about 1750. Have six m/v's at Trondheim anything to do with this? (C-in-C H.F. 2229/29 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Following has been passed to C.S. 18. There appears to have been considerable enemy mine-laying by aircraft between Farne Island and Seaham during the night. The Tyne is closed. 0335 ends. (C-in-C Rosyth 0440/29)

Tyne closed. Suspected minelaying by enemy aircraft (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0129/29)

Minesweepers now available are insufficient to assure there being no delay in getting cruisers to sea from Humber (F.O. Humber 1053/29 to Adty.)

Lowestoft

Your letter S.7/9/40 of 28 June. Approved not to lay mines off North Pier Steps to be taken to block all land exits from this Pier. (D. of L.D. 1938/29 to N.O.I.C. Lowestoft.)

ANDELLE

M.D. ship. To remain in Clyde until further orders. Her primary duty is the maintenance of channel from Greenock to Glasgow. (D.M.S. 1050/29)

One magnetic mine was exploded p.m./29th off Coquet Island. (D.C.N.S. 300)

All U.K. ports are open except Amble, near Coquet Island. (D.C.N.S. 300)

One magnetic mine was exploded off Lowestoft. (I.C. 0497/40)

Magnetic mines were exploded outside the Tyne to-day (D.S. 300)

War Diary

29.6.40
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Trondheim

One large warship at S. end of Harbour with 3,000 ton m/v alongside. (Donibristle 1520/29) In addition to shipping already reported some five other craft from 5,000 to 8,000 tons were observed by a/c. (Donibristle 1800/29) (C-in-C Rosyth 2200/29) One further large warship, probably a Battle Cruiser. (I.C. 0497/40)

At 1758 German a/c bearing 015° from WADDINGTON 53° 10'N, 00° 45'W reported. "6 m/v's in position of own main forces".

At 1820 a/c using same call sign bearing 005° from WADDINGTON made a signal which included the word Peterhead.

At 1837 another a/c was fixed in approx. 58° 00'N 00° 35'E.

At 1910 position of German Naval aircraft was 58° 00'N, 1° 00'E making enemy report.

Comment
It is not known whether "own main forces" refers to surface or air forces. (D.D.I.C. 1937/29)

Your 1937 and 2020. Do the bearings from WADDINGTON refer to the control or aircraft acknowledging message. (C-in-C H.F. 2205/29 to Adty.)

Your 1937. Was aircraft at 1910 in 58° 00'N, 01° 00'E same as 1820 or 1837 aircraft or a third one (C-in-C H.F. 2209/29 to Adty.)

My 1937/29. Signal reporting 6 m/v's in position of main forces was from controls to aircraft not repeat not from Aircraft.

This indicates that the medium sized Merchant Ships are operating with the main forces. (D.N.I. 2020/29)

Your 2205/29. Bearing 015° at 1758 was bearing of Control. Bearing 005° at 1820 was bearing of aircraft.
Your 2209/29. This was a third aircraft. (D.D.I.C. 2335/29 to C-in-C H.F.)

Your 2229/29. Concur that it is probable that intercepted signal refers to ships at Trondheim. Ships at Scapa and Rosyth may revert to usual notice for steam. (D.O.D.(H) 0034/30 to C-in-C H.F.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Trondheim (cont.)

One large battleship and one camouflaged warship were observed in Trondheim harbour, also 6 m/v's, one 3,000, five 5,000 to 8,000 tons. (Air Min. D.S. 346)

Ostend

A/C's dropped 24 bombs between bank and a heavily laden barge. A heavy explosion took place 2 minutes later and presumably the barge was blown up which may have blocked the channel. (Air Min. D.S. 346)

At 1745 B.S.T. unidentified Enemy Unit at about 30 miles West of Den Helder. D/F report. (D.D.I.C. 1815/29 to C-in-C Nore)

Main units at Kiel

LUTZOW in dry-dock with stern damaged, one Battle-Cruiser in Floating Dock, one HIPPER-Class Cruiser, 2 or 3 Destroyers. (D.D.I.C. 2236/29) One a/c carrier and cruiser KOLN alongside (I.C. 0497/40)

Number of small ships

At 1350/29 eighteen small ships resembling a convoy reported 10 miles N. of Terschelling course S.W. P.D.W. report. (D.C. 1635/29) (R.A.S. 1629/29) Later report says 25 ships were sighted 8 miles N.W. of Terschelling on a North-Easterly course. (Air Min. D.S. 346)

Orders to RUBIS to intercept

Proceed with despatch to patrol near 57° 32'N, 2° 45'W. Enemy Forces including transports may be approaching Peterhead from Eastwards. (V.A.S. 2032/29 to RUBIS)

My 2032. Proceed to Dundee. (R.A.S. 2152/29 to RUBIS)

7 M/V's

Seven m/v's up to 7,000 tons at 0055/29 at 54° 45½N, 10° 52'E. heading North. A/C report. (H.Q.B.C. 0430/30)

Main units at Wilhelmshaven

TIRPITZ in Banhafen, ADMIRAL SCHEER in Bauhafen; also Danish Coastal Defence Ship PEDAR SKRAM and Norwegian Minelayer OLAV TRYGGVASON (I.C. 0497/40)

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Minesweepers

Ten motor minesweepers at 1350/29 18 miles W. of Terschelling (I.C. 0497/40)

15 to 20 vessels, unidentified, 4' N.E. of Terschelling at 2245/29. (I.C. 0497/40)

5 minesweepers about 1,000 tons in 53° 25'N, 4° 53'E at 2024/29. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0005/30)

Shipping

Channel Islands

Ministry of Shipping has been informed that Commercial Shipping may be sailed to Channel Islands provided not more than three ships in the Islands at any one time. (A.C.N.S. T. 2016/29 to A.I.G. 47).

Repatriation of French

It has been decided to repatriate French naval and military personnel in this country to French Morocco.

Embarkation will take place as follows:-

At Liverpool 30/6 AL RAWDAH, SWINBURNE, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ULSTER MONARCH.

At Newport 1/7 EURYADES, DROMORE CASTLE, TRELAWNEY.

At Avonmouth 1/7 CITY OF WINDSOR, STRATEGIST, BRITTANY.

At Plymouth 30/6 ROYAL ULSTERMAN.

At Plymouth 1/7 BAHARISTAN, BALFE, CALUMET, CITY OF EVANSVILLE.

ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ULSTER MONARCH should be sailed independently and unescorted for Casablanca as soon as ready. The remainder should be sailed for Casablanca in Convoy OG thirty six.

After disembarkation ships should return to United Kingdom, those requiring fuel calling at Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1126/29)

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Repatriation of French (continued)

Admiralty 1126/29

Paragraph 2. At Newport delete TREVANNEY and add CLAN MACBEAN and BECKENHAM. At Avonmouth add DAVID LIVINGSTONE.

Paragraph 3. First sentence delete ROYAL SCOTSMAN. This ship can only make twelve knots and will therefore be included in Convoy OG 36.

Paragraph 4. Add "unless this can be obtained at Casablanca which it is hoped to arrange". (D.O.D.(H) 1841/29)

Consider escort essential for ULSTER MONARCH and ROYAL ULSTERMAN. As escort cannot reach Casablanca without refuelling request F.O.C.N.A. to arrange relief in latitude of Cape St. Vincent (C-in-C W.A. 1948/29 to Adty.)

Miscellaneous

Weather

North Sea	Wind	Weather	Visibility
(a) W. of 4°E	S. to S.E. moderate to fresh, strong locally in North.	Fair to cloudy	Moderate to good.
(b) E. of 4°E	Light and variable	Fair	Good
Horns Reef	E.N.E. light	Cloudless	Good
Channel	S.S.E. light to moderate	Fair to cloudy	Good
Western Approaches	S. or S.W. fresh to strong locally	Occasional rain.	Good
Norwegian coast	(No information available)		

War Diary

29.6.40
Saturday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

ROSEBURN beached 19/6	Attacked by E-boats off Dungeness and beached 19/6, is a total loss. (D.O.R. 299)
SPINEL	(650 tons) abandoned during the Dunkirk evacuation, is now considered lost. (D.O.R. 299)

North Atlantic

Destroyers. Two destroyers bearing 335° distance 7 miles, course 180° my position 020 08KT 25 (35°N., 9°W) (DOUGLAS, 1130/29 to Gibraltar W/T)

Polish Pilots. Admiralty. 1126/29. 4,000 Polish pilots and mechanics at Casablanca awaiting transport to U.K. ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ULSTER MONARCH and AL RAWDAH to embark and bring them to Liverpool. (D.O.D.(H) 1525/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

Gibraltar. Admiralty 2022/28. Plans to engage shore batteries threatening Gibraltar. (V.A.A. 1146/29).
Situation normal. Defence works continue at full speed. 6 French aircraft landed whose pilots propose loyalty to us. (Governor, Gibraltar, 2000/29).

Brest. BNLO Brest is now in Velox. (F.O.C.N.A. 1119/29).

Oran. Air reconnaissance of Oran 1700 today. No change. (F.O.C.N.A. 2232/29).

My 0630/29. Confirmed all heavy ships still at Mersel Kebir (F.O.C.N.S.1820/29)

French Personnel. Ships taking French personnel to French Morocco. (Admiralty 1126/29. 1525/29. C.in C. 1948/29 to Admiralty and F.O.C.N.A.)

Flying Boats. Two Sunderlands to be sent to Gibraltar for special operations for a period of one week. (Air Min., 1025/29.)

S/m. Supply Ships. GALIANA reliably reported as having left for North Spain with tankage for 30 tons and intention to service submarines. Possible destination Vigo area. (N.A. Madrid 1838/29).

South Atlantic

Your 1514/28 and 1515/28.

RICHELIEU.

A. Your dispositions appear to give no certainty of intercepting RICHELIEU.
B. Unless there is any serious objection which Admiralty are not aware of a close watch of Dakar should be maintained by an 8" cruiser or other ship until 8" cruiser is available as follows:-

(a) By day at visibility distance.
(b) By night just outside 3 mile limit.

C. HERMES and available A.M.C's should also be employed on this patrol as it is essential RICHELIEU should be detected and shadowed.
(1st S.L. 0455/29 to C.in C.S.Air ALBATROSS).

Dakar.

Cancel my 1815/28. Close watch to be kept on Dakar within visibility distance by day and just outside 3 mile limit by night. HERMES to maintain watch until relieved by DORSETSHIRE (C. in C. S.A. in ALBATROSS 0525/29, 0953/29).
Only means of obtaining information through Consul-General. Appointments to his staff. Officers of B.N.L.O. evacuated (C. in C.S.A. 1535/29)
Arrivals 29/6, French sloop BOUGAINVILLE and French oiler GARONNE. (C. in C.S.A., 1150/29).

BULOLO.

To meet DRAGON at Lagos and then proceed Freetown. (C. in C.S.A. 0917/29).

PRETORIA CASTLE.

Required at Freetown for escort duties not later than July 23. Situation in West Africa may necessitate recall before this day. (C. in C.S.A.,1353/29 to R.A.S.A.D.)

ARNDALE.

Unable to request extension of stay. Important not to encrouch too far on Brazilian goodwill. (Ambassador, Rio de Janeiro, 1414/29 to R.A.S.A.D.).

Bunkers, Shipping.

Your 1039/28. Policy for the present is that outward shipping should proceed to Cape direct or bunker at St.Vincent, C.V. Homeward shipping convoy ships bunker at Freetown, independent ships at St.Vincent if necessary. (D.T.D., 1844/29 to C.in C.S.A.)

Military L.O.

B.M.L.O. informed by Gen.Barsas that his duties have ceased. Instructed to embark in HERMES for passage to Freetown. (C.in C S.A.2209/28)

WAR DIARY. FOREIGN STATIONS 29.6.40. Saturday.

Mediterranean.

CALEDON. Bring convoy through Kithera Strait and proceed to close south of Crete (C. in C.Med., 1725/29) (C.S.3 1841/29)

Convoy A.S.1 Route (C.S.3 1852/29, 2039/29)

S/m Patrol Off Marseilles and Algiers. Orders to PROTEUS and PANDORA (F.O.I.C.Malta, 2130/29) (V.A.Malta, 1930/29).

Greek Waters. Greek Admiralty inform me 3 British destroyers with BRITISH UNION at Monemvasia. Probably now located by enemy and Admiralty ask that all may leave to avoid incident if British ships are attacked in their undefended harbour. (N.A.Athens 1803/29).

NARVAL. Message from General de Gaulle to Commander of NARVAL, congratulating him on courageous action (D.N.I.1757/29).

Turkey. re purchase of Oerlikon guns for us on an agency basis (D.N.I. 1302/29 to N.A.Ankara).

Shipping. Sir Henry Barker, Ministry of Shipping representative at Alexandria, asked to collate shipping requirements. (D. of S.T. to C.in C. Med.,1725/29).

Evacuation. Scheme for compulsory evacuation necessary families, officers and other ranks. (C. in C.M.E., to W.O., 0935/29).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.
Air.

CAUALLO bombed. Bombed by Italian planes 36.39 N., 24 E. (Scapa W.T. via Portishead Radio,1440/29).

767 Squadron. Re primary object of, but offensive operations against Italy also important. (Air Min., 1530/29 to H.R. Malta.)

Operations. Summary No.19, reconnaissance Tobruk, etc. 1 submarine attacked, results not known. (H.R., R.A.F. M.E. 1922/29).

Mediterranean.

Enemy Intelligence

5 destroyers and 3 S/m's at Massawa. Air reconnaissance June 28 reports 5 Destroyers, 3 submarines at Massawa (A.I) (C.O.1, Alexandria, 1305/29).

WAR DIARY. FOREIGN STATIONS 29.6.40.
Saturday.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Intelligence

Reconnaissance reports 0800/29 ship approx. 5000 tons steering E., 32°10' N., 24 30' E. (R.a., Alexandria, 1341/29).

Destroyers engaged 28/6. Two of the 3 Italian destroyers which were in action with the 7th c.S. 75 miles West of C.Mataban 28/6 were believed to have been off Benghazi at 0430/29. It is now known that the destroyers concerned were ZEFFIRO, ESPERO, and OSTRO. (I.C.0497/40).

s.s.CAVALLO bombed. British (2268 tons) was bombed in 36°39' N 24° (off Cape Malia, Greece 45 miles) at 1440/29 (I.C.0497/40).

Bardia. A/c. reconnaissance saw 2 destroyers anchored in the harbour and considerable concentration of M.T. in the neighbourhood (Air Min., D.S. 347).

WAR DIARY. FOREIGN STATIONS 29.6.40. Saturday.

East Indies.

Convoy W.S.1. Admiralty. 2000/22. Request convoy be referred to as W.S.1 as suggested in my 1028/17 and not as W.21 (C. in C., E.I., 0427Z/29).

Port Sudan. Your 1517/19. Understood that G.O.C. in C., M.E., has now appointed military officer as Fortress Commander. Appointment of Whitehouse as N.O.I.C. with acting rank of Commander and of Farquharson as Extended Defence Officer approved. (D. of L.D., to C.in C.E.I., 1544/29).

Dispositions As HECTOR and WESTRALIA are now joining your command request you will take action on my 2359/14 (to send one A.M.C. to S.A. Station) temporarily suspended by para 2 of my 1818/24. (D.O.D.(F) 1845/29).

Troop Transport. Request from Nairobi to despatch battery and details to Aden per s.s.TAKLIWA for outward transit Berbera. Request concurrence or other instructions (N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 1802/29).

Minesweepers. Your 2331/25, re craft for conversion to fast minesweepers. Regret none available. (F.O.C.R.I.N. to C.in C.Med., 0421Z/30).

FOREIGN STATIONS

China.

Saigon meeting. Meeting with Governor General Indo China, French Naval C. in C., and local French naval and military representatives. G.G. affirmed his continued duty to Allied cause, whose interests now coincided in Far East in resisting Japanese aggression. Requested my assistance by S/m's possibly based Camranh Bay and of demonstration patrols by H.M. ships in Tongking Gulf. Replied I would do all in my power to assist with occasional patrols but feel French other than Naval C.in C. did not realize weakness of my forces especially submarines. Stressed the fact that British policy must be avoidance of war with Japan. Present attitude of G.G. is to obey outwardly orders of Bordeaux Govenment while still asking for our co-operation. Considers disobedience to Bordeaux would result in denunciation of Indo-China and invite Japanese attack. Asks our naval and economic assistance. Invitation to join me at Singapore was not received with encouragement but idea was not discarded.

China

Saigon Meeting. Indo-China as a whole anxious to continue war, but lack strong ships. (C. in C. China, 1315 Z/29, 1835 Z/29).

Hong Kong. Frontier situation quiet. Chinese Customs report Sha-U-Chung now evacuated by Japanese and Ferry Service from Tripo resumed. (C.O.C. Hong Kong 2207/29).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies.

BONAVENTURE To sail for Halifax as ocean escort with Revenge aid then proceed Bermuda to work up. (D.O.D.(H) 1931/29)

Routes. Routing officers in U.S. and Canada instructed that any ships bound to a port between Southampton and Thames are to be routed to Portland for further instructions. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1309/29).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia.

CANBERRA. Arrived Freemantle escorting STRATHMORE 28/6. (A.C.N.B., 0459Z/29) Left Freemantle for Capetown for service under C.in C. S.A., (A.C.N.B. 1010Z/29). Date of arrival (1101Z/29).

New Zealand.

Enemy Propaganda. Broadcast station signing itself "New British Broadcasting Station" heard, 1st class transmission, consisted of subversive propaganda and instruction in English. (S.O.I., Wellington, 0132Z/29).

Mines. Mines located to date in approach to Auckland (6). (N.O., Wellington, 2321 Z/29).

WAR DIARY GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS 29.6.40.
Saturday.

REGENSBURG	Yokohama, returned to anchorage outside outer breakwater after day docking. (Capt O.S.Singapore 0507 Z/29)
HAVELLAND	Manzanilla, departed after loading scrap machinery. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0507 Z/29).
MARITZA	Split reports arrived Dubrovnik 27/6 to load bauxite. Another German ship expected split on 15/7. (G.O.I. Alexandria. 1616/29).
OSLEBHAUSEN	Informed Ruegen W/T station high pressure piston defective. Returning Kiel (? 0400/30) half speed (A.C.O.S., 2017/29).
GENERAL OGORIO	Reported by W/T 0813/28 she would not arrive Kiel until 1400/29, presumably from Oslo. (I.C., 0496/40).

WAR DIARY | ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS. | 29.6.40. Saturday

ABBAZIA	Varna, June 29.(Galatzi, 1022/29)
FORTUNATA	Expected to sail from Casablanca 29/6. (P.O.C.N.A. 1735/29).
CAPO ARMA	Reported at Galatz laid up 24/6. (I.C. 0496/40).
TORCELLO	At Voma 24/6. (I.C. 0496/40).
CATERINA MADRA	At Galatz 24/6. (I.C. 0496/40).
GIOVANNI	Brigantine in 44° S 41° E at 1105 GMT 27/6. (I.C. 0496/40.)
CAPO OLMO	Has arrived at Gibraltar from Marseilles. (I.C. 0496/40).
AGUGLIA, BIANCA MARIA, GIAN PAULO, GIORGIO ORSINI, RUBATTINO and two others	passed through Corinth Canal for Leros between 1700 and 1730/29/5. (I.C. 0496/40.)

War Diary

29.6.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

HELPIG TOUCAN

British, 4127 tons, torpedoed 0425/29 in 49.20'N., 13.52'W., about 220 miles S.W. of Bantry (Land's End Radio, 0325/29) Sailed in convoy from Mersey 25/6. Escort had parted company (D.O.R. 299) Sinking rapidly by the stern. (Gibraltar W/T, 0434/29) 3 killed (D.9 1207/29)
Ship torpedoed 49.06 N., 14.24'W. (COPTIC via Gibraltar W/T 0348/29) Cancel my 0348 correct position 49.20 N., 14.08 W (COPTIC, 0800/29) Vessels ordered to attack U-boat. C. in C., W.A., 0514/29, 0851/29)
Entire crew rescued except 3 killed (Capt. D 9 1207/29)

Unnamed Ship 0317

Attacked by U/B 0317/29 in 52.08'N., 6.24'W 245° Tuskar Rock 9' (I.C. 0496/40)

MOORDRECHT 7 Date

Dutch. Presumed torpedoed approx 220 miles W. Finisterre (survivor's report) Date not known. (I.C. 0497/40)

Submarines Reported

Estimated U/B dispositions.

1 in Finisterre Area
Possibly 1 in Bay of Biscay or W. of Ushant
2 in Western Approaches.
1 passing through Western Approaches homeward bound from Cape St. Vincent area.
1 in St. George's Channel. May have come through Irish Sea.
1 N.W. of Ireland homeward bound.
1 N. of Shetlands homeward bound.
1 Northern North Sea possibly about 59. N., 2. E steering S.E.
(D.D.I.C. 1222/29)

0325 G.M.T. — 49.20' N., 14.08' W (D.D.I.C., 0615/29) (C. in C., W.A., 0514, amended 0851/29, COPTIC 0348/29, 0800/29.

0348 G.M.T. — 49.06'N., 14.24' W. (D.D.I.C., 0615/29) (C. in C., W.A., 0654/29) Capt (D) 9 ordered to search (C. in C., W.A., 1036/29)

1248 — D.F., 50.N., 11.W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1324/29) (C. in C., W.A. 1344/29)

1342 — D.F., indications of U-boat 120-150 miles further southward of 1248, position indefinite (D.D.I.C. 1324/29)

0317 — 52.04 N., 06.20 W., 9 miles W.S.W. from Tuskar Rock. VANOC to attack (C. in C., W.A. 0504/29)

War Diary

29.6.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported, Contd.

0154 Position is 53.15' N., 06.00 'W (C. in C., W.A. 1807/29) Continue to hunt (A.C.W.A. 1847/29)

0124 S.E. Shetlands, position indefinite (I.C. 0496/40)

0158 49.50' N., 15.40'W., 348° Fastnet 252' position reliable. (I.C., 0496/40)

1040 58.36'N 2.38' W Suspected U-boat reported by aircraft B 4 (I.C. 0497/40)

2320 57.N 4.40'E reliable (I.C. 0497/40)

2025 51.4'N 1.35'E aircraft sighted P/s course 140° B 3 (I.C. 0497/40)

1300 27' N.W. of Ymuiden, course about 300. A/C report (H.Q.B.C. Recd. 0152/30)

Submarines Attacked

0160/26 Attack by BARON ERSKINE in company with BARON NEWLANDS, on U-boat which shelled both ships 0100/26 16 miles N. of Cape Sigh, Algeria. One certain direct hit and possibly second one at range of about 2.5 cables. Strong possibility of U-boat sunk (F.O.C.N.A., 1233/29)

2157 U/B depth charged by WHITE BEAR (See 28/6) no contact. 3 patterns fixed in position relative to mask buoy given by WHITEBEAR No results. (FORTUNE, 2157/29)

War Diary

29.6.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Mediterranean & East Indies.

Submarines Reported

1837 — 34.00 N., 27.30 E., about 90 miles S.E.of Crete. Reported by H.M.S. DAINTY (D.S.299)

Submarines Attacked

~~See (separate sheet)~~

LIUZZI
SALPA
UEBI SCEBELI

Italian submarine LIUZZI sunk 27/6 in position 33.46'N., 27.27' E. Italian submarine SALPA sunk in position 35.24' N., 20.10'E. Italian submarine UEBI SCEBELI sunk in position 35.29'N. 20.06'E., 0800 to-day Saturday. Have secret orders for Italian submarine which orders them to be in following position at 0400 to-morrow Sunday, 30/6:- ONDINA, 34.16 N., 23.24'E., ANFITRITE, 34.43'N., 23.40' E., SALPA, 33.46'N., 23.10'E. UEBI SCEBELLI, 33.16'N 22.56'E., returning to Augusta, July 10. Am sweeping towards northern position stated (DAINTY, 0915/29) Request publication deferred for present. (C. in C., MEd. 1427/29)

LUIGI GALVANI

(see 24/6) Summary of FALMOUTH's written report on destriction. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 09502/29 0955/29) 3 officers and 23 ratings lost, 31 survivors including C.O. and 3 officers.

RUBINO

Sunderland F/B No L 5804 reports having sunk enemy submarine in position 39.10' N., 18.49'E and has picked up survivors. Request publication be deferred for present. (C. in C., Med. 1733/29) 4 survivors picked up by Sunderland (H.Q. R.A.F., 2100/29) Result of interrogation (V.A. Malta, 1405/30)

War Diary. 30.6.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

HOME COMMANDS.

SEVERN — At 1900/30 SEVERN unsuccessfully attacked a north-bound destroyer 50 miles S.W. of Lister.

E-Boats attacked the British S.S. HELDER 41 miles off Cape Barfleur during the night 29/30. HELDER reports she sank one of the enemy.

Germans land in Guernsey. — War Office reported at 2300/30 that 9 German troop carrying planes had landed in Guernsey and that telephonic communication had ceased. The aerodromes in Guernsey and Jersey were reported by a/c reconnaissance 3 hours earlier to be fully serviceable.

Convoys.

Troops for Iceland. — S.S. ANDES and 2 destroyers arrived at Sedisfjord, Iceland 1915/30.

Force H.

V.A. Sir James Somerville arrived at Gibraltar in ARETHUSA at 1800/30. He is to transfer his flag to HOOD.

French Fleet.

FAULKNOR and FEARLESS left Gibraltar at 0742/30 to patrol 30 miles west of Oran.

HERMES is patrolling off Dakar and VELOX off Casablanca.

It is reported that the ARUNDEL CASTLE, which called at Dakar for fuel 27/6 was subjected to long delay and obstruction because she had some troops on board. She left p.m. 28/6 without fuelling.

EMILE BERTIN at Martinique is disembarking gold.
FIJI left Martinique today to fuel at St.Lucia.
DUNEDIN remains at Fort de France.
BEARN at Martinique has not yet disembarked her aircraft.

It is very doubtful if anything can be done to secure co-operation of the French Fleet, and, short of surrender to enemy, position cannot deteriorate further. Feelings of officers vary from definite hostility to negative wishes not to embarrass British Fleet.(War Cabinet Summary 337).

War Diary.

30.6.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Air.

3 enemy a/cs. bombed Portland in daylight this evening. No damage was done. 18 bombs were dropped, 7 of which did not explode at the time. Shipping off Peterhead was also bombed.

There were further raids on the U.K. after dark last night and incendiary bombs were dropped in many parts of the country. No damage of any military impatance was done and there were very few casualties.

The entire North Sea area was covered by our patrols from dawn and throughout last night. An area from the North of Scotland, the Faeroes and the English Channel as far west as the Isle of Wight, was patrolled during the night.

At 2030 our a/cs. unsuccessfully attacked 6 enemy E-Boats off Terschelling.

Attacks on barges in the Maaslius Canal last night were unsuccessful. The old aqueduct of the Dortmund-Ems Canal was attacked and two 500 lb. bombs were dropped in the Canal about 50 ft. from the lock gates. The aerodromes at Barge, Norderney, Borkum, and Schipol were attacked.

Gardening continued in the Fehmarn Belt area successfully.

Mining.

The Amble (near Coquet Island) is closed. All other ports in the U.K. are open. Magnetic mines were exploded off Portland and in the Portsmouth approach channel today.

Movements.

ILLUSTRIOUS has been ordered to return to Scapa. Her defects will necessitate her remaining at Halifax until 6 July.

War Diary. 30.6.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT .

Italian Hostilities.

Malta was bombed by 8 a/cs. p.m. to-day. Little damage was done and there were few casualties. Submarine patrols have been established off Oran and Algiers.

Aircraft dropped bombs without success on destroyers in the Central Mediterranean.

Preparations for Invasion.

From all the evidence available, the preparations for sea and air borne expeditions appear to be nearing completion.(C.I.C. Report 31).

War Diary. 30.6.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Your 2304/29. MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, NEWCASTLE, YORK are now at 15 minutes for steam.
(F.O.C. 18 C.S. 0045/30 to C.in C. H.F.).

Movements.

Position of S/ms. and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/1/7.

Positions from S.P. 02274 (4).

TRIAD, TRITON vicinity Fro Havet TRITON leaving 1800 coastwise for Rosyth.

TAKU D N L Z 1530 proceeding on surface to Fro Havet.

TRIDENT G B M F 2050 proceeding on surface to Rosyth.

SNAPPER C. One.

SEALION C. 4.

SEVERN J Z U B 3030.

STURGEON and H.50 in H. One and H.2.

NARWHAL vicinity R Q G R 1010 proceeding on surface Northward.

H. 31 due Blyth 0800 from Southward.

H.34 arriving Harwich a.m. from Gap E.
(V.A.S. 1726/30).

Operations.

Swedish Destroyers.

Swedish PATRICIA with Destroyer Crews and Passengers and under orders from Swedish Govt.unexpectedly ready for sea, presumably for Kirkwall. CASTOR still at Skaale Fjord. Request instructions for ST.MAGNUS and WINDERMERE.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 0100/30.)

War Diary. 30.6.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/ms.

SEVERN. At 1900 unsuccessfully attacked one northbound Destroyer in 57°28'N. 5°31'E.
(SEVERN 2331/30 to E.A.S.)

Dover.

Naval. (N.O.I.C. Dover 2256/30 to Dover Force).

E-Boats.

E-Boats Attacked. M.T.Bs. will carry out sweep tonight to destroy E-Boats and M/Vs. off mouths of Maas and Scheldt. Sweep will cease at 0200/1, and 3 Fighter A/c. will provide protection from dawn 1/7.
(Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2051/30 to Adty.)

British HELDER, 979 tons, sank an E-Boat during night 29/30 June about 40 miles from Cape Barfleur.
(C. in C. Nore 1505/1 to Adty).

Air.

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPIRE HENCHMAN. Off Peterhead. Bombed at 1250/30.(Scapa W/T. Recd. 1300/30).
No damage (I.C. 0493/40).

TOPAZ British, 577 tons, attacked 220 Beachy Head 20'
(ARABIS 0035/30).

It is reported that nine German troop-carrying A/C. landed in Guernsey on 30 June. (D.S. 300).

Three enemy A/C. made a daylight attack on Portland in evening of 30 June. No damage.
(D.S. 300).

War Diary. 30.6.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

E.Coast mine barrier. In view of new situation, am of opinion that further consideration should be given to prolonging the East Coast Mine Barrage in a N.W. direction to protect shipping between Kinnaird's Head and Pentland Firth. (C. in C. Rosyth 1147/30 to Adty.). C. in C. Rosyth's 1147/30. I agree. (C.in C.H.F. 1009/1 to Adty.)

Portland. 3 Magnetic Mines were exploded off Portland, 2½ miles East of Grove Point, within QZ 38. (I.C. 0498/40).

Flamborough. A Moored Mine was cut this morning in the field off Flamborough possibly indicating a 22-day delay action. (I.C. 0497/40).

Portsmouth Approach Channel. One Blue Mine detonated by L.L. at 308° Nab End Buoy 11 cables. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1804/30 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Clock Point reports hearing foreign language, believed German, between 0004 and 0023 today while on routine R/T watch with Boom Trawlers (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0036/30 to Adty.)

A/C.attacks on 2 destroyers. Two small Enemy Warships of Destroyer type escorted one Tanker type Enemy M/V.10,000 tons, at 58°48' N. 4°40' E. Attacked by A/C. (Donibristle 0925/30).

Two Destroyers and one M/V. course 180° at 58°48'N. 4°40' E. (A/C. of 233 Sqdn. 0600/30).

Fifteen ships at 0030 at 54°41'N. 10°40'E. steering N.W. (R.A.S. 0201/30 to SEALION).

15 to 20 vessels at 53°30'N. ? longtd. A/C.report (A/C. 220 Sqdn. 2245/30).

Bergen. One M/V.12,000 tons anchored at S.E. corner of Asko. Island at 1130/30. (Donibristle 1603/30).

Haugesund. About 12 M/Vs. 800 to 1500 tons anchored in mouth of harbour p.m./30. (Donibristle 1603/30).

War Diary. 30.6.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Admiralty 1404/30 present FN and FS convoys are often overborne and an unescorted party have to sail ahead. It is not known how many additional vessels will now have to be included as result of OA convoys becoming amalgamated but it is considered that on those days OA run additional escorts should be provided and that the convoy should run in two parts or that coastal traffic between Tyne and Southend should be reduced to those numbers which will bring the total convoy to 50. (C. in C. Rosyth 2304/30 to Adty.)

West Coast Shipping.

Reference 1732 from Admiralty 28th June paragraph (d) and reference 1612 from Admiralty 29th June, request information as to whether homeward independent shipping for West Coast ports from Gibraltar is to be routed via the Northern Approaches from now onwards. (F.O.C.N.A. 1102/30).

Your 1102/30. It is intended that the movements of Independent Shipping shall in due course conform to that of Convoys. They should therefore begin to arrive by Northern Approaches on and after 15th July and be routed to the westward of the Lane defined in my 1903/26 paragraph A.3.C. They are to cross this Lane to the northward of 53 degs.00'North and to the southward of the Area defined in my 1948/24. (D.T.D. 2328/30 to F.O.C.N.A).

Miscellaneous.

R.A.Spooner appointed R.A.C. Northern Patrol in succession to V.A. Raikes, to date 15 July. (M.012450/40).

Weather.

North Sea.	W.or N.W.light or moderate in West. S.moderate or fresh in East.	Mainly good, Local coastal mist Tyne.	Wind backing S.W. slowly in West; veering in East.
Channel and W.Approaches.	N.light or moderate.	Very good.	Wind backing slowly S.W.
Horns Reef.	S.Moderate.	Good or moderate.	Wind veering N.W.
Dutch Coast.	" "	" " "	" " "
Norwegian Coast.	Southerly moderate to strong.	" " "	Similar except in S.W. where wind will veer and moderate.

War Diary. 30.6.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

ILLUSTRIOUS — Your 1602/30 and my 2211/29. Defects affect seaworthiness. Intend to sail ILLUSTRIOUS on completion of defects. (See A. and W.I. Station).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Personnel	At Gibraltar, escaped by A/C from French North Africa. Enquiring whether they are to be repatriated (F.O.C.N.A. 1302/30)
Polish and Czech troops	Inform French Admiral they should not be interned as ships are now on way to Casablanca (F.O.I.C. Gib.2350/30)
French Warships	Destroyer patrol to be established westward of Oran. Orders for and procedure re French warships met. (1st S.L. to V.A.A., 0015/30)
Oran patrol	FAULKNOR and FEARLESS left Gibraltar 0742/30 to patrol 30 miles W. of Oran in accordance with Adty. 0015/30 (S.O.(1) Gibraltar 1026/30)
Situation Spain.	German tanks (?) number unknown parked on beach at Hendaye. Total German forces on frontier so far small. Many reports of varying reliability that Germany will demand passage to Portugal by north Spanish coast or attempt this locality. Appears fairly certain that any such demand will be refused and attack resisted. Resistance would be overcome but Spain would then be hostile to Germany. Identical source states no such German movement contemplated immediately. British now very unpopular because apparently losing. Germans getting less popular because winning too much. Navy disposition normal. (N.A. Madrid 2101/29)

South Atlantic

French Shipping	Instructions how to be dealt with (D.T.D. to N.O.I.C's Simonstown and Durban, 0249/30)
CORFU	To proceed to Freetown, route (C. in C.S.A. 1903/30)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operations

JERVIS — Position north of Galita Island (F.O. Malta, to S/M's 1025/30)

Oran and Algiers Patrols — Your 1938/29. Please verify and check. Adty. 1346/29 ordered patrol off Oran and Algiers while your 2130/29 (re. PROTEUS and PANDORA patrols) orders patrol off Marseilles and Algiers (C. in C. Med. 1341/30 to V.A. Malta.)

Amend my 2130/29 as follows. Cancel all references Marseilles. PROTEUS is to establish dive reconnaissance patrols off Oran they have been bounded by lines joining following positions. Position 1. Latitude 036 degs 04' North Lingitude 001 degs 00' West. Position 2. Latitude 036 degs 03' North Longitude 000 degs 30' West. Position 4. Latitude 035 degs. 53' North Longitude 001 degs 00' West. (2) Course to be followed. (F.O.I/C Malta 1705/30. to PROTEUS)

LIVERPOOL — To embark one battalion Black Watch and convey them to Aden at best speed. Battalion is due Suez a.m./1/7 (C. in C. Med. 1719/30).

Air.

Malta — Raid this morning by 2 bomber formations (Governor, 1158/30) Slight damage at Naxar (Air. Min.D.S.347)

Destroyers attacked. — Four reconnaissances were made between Sicily and South Italy and Greece, and 4 - 250 lb. A/S bombs were dropped in an attack on destroyers, but with negative results. (Air Min. D.S.347)

Mining.

British S/M Losses — C. in C., Med., believes that losses of submarines may be due to extensive defensive minelaying by Italians, even to depths of 200 fathoms. Steps have been taken to safeguard submarines against this possibility. (D.O.R., 300)

Enemy Intelligence

Cruisers at Port Augusta — Air R/C reports that at 2115/30 the following warships were at Port Augusta 3 8-inch cruisers and 4 6-inch cruisers and about 5 merchant ships.

At Syrancuse 2 or 3 (? small) ships observed but not identified. (S.O.(1) Malta 2231/30)

War Diary

30.6.40
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS
EAST INDIES

Troop Transport — Your 1802/29. If 2 ships are employed they are to be sailed together as only one warship is available for escort. (C. in C.E.I., 1216Z/30 to N.O.I.C. Kilindini)

TAKLIWA — My 1038/28. 16/7 can now be accepted (C. in C.E.I. 1217Z/30)

China

Use of Ships — Your 0517/25 Before requisitioning ships under Right of Angary use should be made of any neutral ships under British Charter. (Hd. of M. to Cdre. Hong Kong, 1606/30)

America and West Indies

ILLUSTRIOUS — To be sailed for Scapa with all convenient despatch (D.C.D.(H) 1602/30 to C. in C.A.W.I.). Expect to leave 29/7. (C. in C.A.W.I. 2211/29) Your 1602/30 and my 2211/29. Defects affect seaworthiness. Intend to sail ILLUSTRIOUS on completion of defects (C.in C.A.W.I. 2222/30)

Situation at Martinique — DUNEDIN considers Robert intends to carry out Armistice terms vide DUNEDIN's 1701/28. FIJI just arrived considers French ships will scuttle if necessary and advocates maintenance (?if possible) of trust without which Robert might request our ships to leave, thus increasing our difficulties. My own opinion is that Robert lacks guts and in absence of any strong lead from French territory will not issue orders contrary to Armistice terms. BEARN and EMILE BERTIN are at Martinique, JEANNE d'ARC at Guadaloupe. Disembarking of gold from French cruiser EMILE BERTIN is proceeding. Am anxious about aircraft in French Aircraft Carrier BEARN which we may lose if they are disembarked, and consider strong and swift measures essential if we are to get them. FIJI is proceeding St. Lucia to fuel today 30th June, DUNEDIN remaining Martinique. (C. in C.A.W.I., 1001/30)

FURIOUS — Details of U.S. aircraft on board. (F.O.C.3B.S. 1981/30)

War Diary

30.6.40
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WILHELM A. RIEDEMANN — (10,326 tons) left Tallinn where she had arrived in May and sailed for Kiel 27/6 with 10500 tons of Estonian oil and (D.S.300)

CONSUL CORDS, KLAUS OLDENDORF, NORDFELS — Arranged to ship timber at Riga for Germany about 17/7. (I.C. 0498/40)

4 German steamers of 2000 tons and under reported loading timber and props at Oulâ, Finland, in latter half of June. (I.C.0498/40)

MARITZA — Arrived Dubrovnik 27/6 for 5000 tons bauxite. (I.C., 0498/40)

Another German ship expected at Split on 15/7. (I.C. 0498/40)

ITHAKA — Next port Batoum, due 1/7. (Salatz, 0944/29)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CASAREGIS — At Venice on 27/6 but was expected shortly at Trieste (I.C. 0498/40)

CONTE BIANCAMANO — At Colon. Owners informed agents at Colon 27/6 to arrange for her unloading and placing of goods in suitable storage (I.C. 0498/40)

BRONTE — Tanker, at Bandar Shapur, informed on 27/6 she will receive instructions re probable repatriation of part of crew. (I.C. 0498/40)

CABOTO — At Bandar Shapur, has completed unloading. Arrangements suggested for sending 26 of crew by road transport to Erzerum and thence by sail to Istanbul and Trieste. (I.C. 0498/40)

CATERINA (Ex. FORTUNATA) — 4786 G.T. Expected to sail from Casablanca 29/6. (Should not be confused with FORTUNATA, 2715 G.T., reported as scuttled. (I.C. 0498/40)

War Diary. 30.6.40.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

CLAN OGILVY. British (5802 tons) torpedoed about 1010/30 in position 46° 17' N., 14° 35' W. Able to steam astern. British ship GODFREY B. HOLT standing by. Tug being sent. (C. in C. W.A. 1451/30, 1541/30) 46° 17' N. 13° 32' W. (C. in C. W.A.1954/30) In homeward bound Convoy S.L.36. (IC, 0498/30).

HELDER. British, for London, passed St. Catherines 0730 bound East and reported having been attacked by torpedo and gunfire in position Cape Barfleur 134° 41 miles, presumably during night. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1252/30).

H.M.S. SNAPPER. Attacked by U-boat 207° Lister Light 27 miles. (SNAPPER 1854/30).

AVELONA STAR. Torpedoed (C. in C. W.A. 2319/30) British (13,376 tons) in homeward bound Convoy S.L. 36 was torpedoed at 2130, 300 miles W. by S. of Ushant (O.S.) 46° 46' N 12° 20' W. C. in C. 0498/40 gives position 46° 46' N., 12° 17' W. 251° Ushant 315'.

BEIGNON. British (5218 tons) in homeward bound convoy S.L. 36. Torpedoed 300 miles W. of Ushant (D.S. 300)

ZARIAN. British (4871 tons) in ballast, in outward bound convoy S.L. torpedoed 2320 48° 3' N. 11° 11' W. (260 miles S.W. of Ushant).Position at 0508 48° 1' N. 11° 18' W. VANSITTART to tow. (C. in C. W.A. 0508/1,0824/1).

S/M's Reported.

2320/29. D.F. reliable fix, 57° N., 4° 40' E. (ODIC 0001/30).

1010. 46.18 N., 14.33 W. reliable fix. (C. in C. W.A., 1314/30).

1226. D.F. unreliable fix, 47° N., 13° W. (C. in C. W.A., 1342/30).

1310. 46.17' N. 14.35' W. WINDSOR and VESPER to attack. (C. in C. W.A. 1451/30).

0515. 57° N.7° E. Position indefinite. (IC.0497/40)

1027. Off Bantry Bay or Dingle Bay. Position indefinite. (IC.0497/40).

1916. By D/F, U boat following S.L. convoy, signalling continously (C. in C. W.A.,1916/30, 2032/20 to WINDSOR)

2132. 225° 47° N. 12° W. 18 miles by DUNVEGAN CASTLE (C. in C. W.A. 2234/30)

30.6.40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

1542. 60.50 N. 3° E. 294° Bergen 73' approx. position (1 C.0498/40)

1148. 55° N. 10° to 12° W. say 90' W. of Bloody Foreland position indefinite. (IC. 0498/40).

West Indies.

2125. 47° 30' N. 11° 20' W. 244° Ushant 280' position very indefinite. (IC. 0498/40).

1900/28. St. Vincent reports unidentified S/M on surface off north coast approached from northward, departed eastward submerging while in sight C2 (CO(1) Kingston Jamaica 0932/30).

S/M's Attacked.

U-Boat depth charged by WHITEBEAR and FORTUNE. (see 28/6, 29/6) Contact reduced to 600 yards. Now difficult to locate submarine. (WHITEBEAR, 0420/30).

Mediterranean and East Indies.

S/M's Reported.

Red Sea. Estimated 8 on station when war began. 1 captured, 3 definitely sunk, one bombarded and damaged whilst ashore, leaving at present only 3 on station. (IC. 0498/40).

ADMIRALTY

WAR DIARIES

1 7 40

TO

31 7 0

DISREGARD
LAST
SHOT

ADMIRALTY

WAR DIARIES

1 7 40

TO

31 7 40

War Diary

1.7.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

In view of possible invasion, it is my intention that all Destroyers fit for service shall be at sea or in an open anchorage during the night till further orders. (C. in C., W.A. 2056/1 to Capts.D)

Disposition to be maintained each night by CARDIFF and Destroyers to repel Invasion (C. in C., Nore 1940/1)

Photographic Air R/C shows large concentration of Barges in River Maas, East of Rotterdam. (I.C. 0499/40)

Movements

NELSON — To return to Scapa. Route and Escort to be arranged. (D.C. 0251/1) See Force H.

Operations

"Naval" — Negative Naval (N.O.I.C. Dover 0001/1 to Dover Force.

R.M. Brigade — My 1628/28. Brigade will be at 6 hours notice from 1700/1. Brigadier strongly wishes longer notice if possible to enable training be carried out. 12 hours notice would satisfy this condition. (Milford Haven 1054/1 to Admty)

Sweep by M.T.B's — All available M.T.B's are to repeat Operation ordered in my 1542/27 to-night. Not to go North of 52° N. (Sweep of Mouths of Maas and Scheldt) (C. in C., Nore 1725/1)

War Diary

1.7.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

Patrols — H.31 from A.5 reports occasional E-boat Patrols co-operating with aircraft. One E-boat seen, remainder heard. (S.6. 1004/1 to V.A.S.)

E-boats Attacked — British s.s. HELDER reports she sunk an E-Boat on 30th June, Cape Barfleur bearing 1340,40' distant. (C. in C., Nore 1505/1 to Admty.)

War Diary

1.7.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Air - British Air Activity

Convoys Attacked

At 2045/1 aircraft attacked convoy of 6 M.V's and 5 destroyers at 58.06'N 5.E. Near miss observed. (Denibristle 0010/2)
At 1810/1 aircraft attacked convoy of 3 destroyers and 6 M/V's at 58.30'N. 5.E Near miss observed. (Denibristle 2340/1)

Barges in Maas to be attacked

Order for attack on Barges in River Maas east of Rotterdam and for laying M. Bombs in that River (H.Q.C.C. 1750/1)

Enemy Air Activity

HESPERUS

Attacked by aircraft in EJMA 12 (sic) No hits (HESPERUS 0732/1 and 0750/1)

Indications of considerable enemy air activity in N. part of North Sea. (D.D.I.C. 0936/1) These aircraft were making weather reports. (D.D.I.C. 1127/1)

Convoy Attacked

Convoy Jumbo attacked by aircraft at 50.14'N 3.54'W. (VERSATILE 1231/1)

Cardiff and Penarth

Details of damage by air raid 0015 to 0251/30 June. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1300/30 to C. in C., W.A.)

Portland

Damage in air raid 2020/30 June. No casualties (F.O.I.C. Portland 1315/1 to Admty.)

Enemy aircraft crashed and sank in 53.39'N 0.45'E 4 of crew recovered, 2 wounded. Intend sending them in GUILLEMOT to Harwich a.m. 2nd July. (BLACK SWAN 1901/1 to C. in C., Nore.)

Cardiff)
Penarth)
Port Talbot

Details of air raid 0050 to 0355/1 July No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1400/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

War Diary

1.7.1940.
Monday.

FRENCH FLEET

Mediterranean

Oran

Admty. 1622/30. At present lying at Oran and Mers El Kebir. French battle cruisers DUNKERQUE, STRASBOURG, aviation transport COMMANDANT TESTE, 2 cruisers, 19 destroyers 4 submarines. (Oran, 1800/1)

East Indies

CARAIBE

Ordered by French Admiral, Far East, to Diego Suarez to await orders from him. (C. in C., E.I. 0429Z/1) Orders to KENT, pending reply from Admty. whether she is to be allowed to leave. (C. in C., 0821/1) No obstruction to be placed in way of V CARAIBE carrying out instructions of French Admiral, Far East. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., E.I., 1618/1)

2.7.40
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

M.T.B. Sweep. — Large M.T.B's from Harwich again carried out a sweep off the mouths of the Scheldt and Maas last night.

Operation "Catapult".

Force H left Gibraltar to carry out Operation Catapult.

Troop Convoys (0715/2)

B.C. (Slow) — escort CORNWALL, is at Takoradi.

B.C. (Fast) — escort AUSTRALIA, due Freetown 3/7

B.N.I. — escort CERES to 55° E., thence LEANDER, is proceeding to Aden.

W.S.I. — escort CUMBERLAND is about 200 miles N.E. of Azores.

STRATHMORE — escort CANBERRA is on passage from Freemantle to Capetown.

ARANDORA STAR sunk.

ARANDORA STAR on passage to Canada with 479 German and 734 Italian male internees and 86 German prisoners of war and guards was torpedoed at 0610 about 125 miles from Malin Head and sunk. Over 800 have been saved.

Air.

During last night a smaller number of enemy bombers than heretofore dropped bombs in the area Bristol and South Wales. No serious damage is reported.

Convoy O.A. was attacked by enemy aircraft this afternoon in Lyme Bay and one ship, S.S. AENEAS was sunk.

Our A/C's covered the entire North Sea area with routine and anti-invasion patrols yesterday at dawn, dusk, and throughout the night. A cross-over patrol midway between the Shetlands and the coast of Norway was maintained throughout daylight hours.

SCHARNHORST in floating dock at Kiel was heavily attacked last night, over 80 bombs, mostly 500 lbs., being dropped. Several direct hits and near misses are claimed and fire was started in an area visible 85 miles away.

2.7.40
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Further minelaying was carried out last night in the East Coast mine barrier.

The Amble is still closed. All other British ports are open.

Minelaying by enemy A/C's off the east coast last night is suspected.

Italian Hostilities

C. in C. Mediterranean reports that on 30/6 Italian aircraft when shadowing and attacking British warships and a convoy of merchant ships repeatedly infringed Greek neutrality by flying over Crete.

War Diary

2.7.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Your 2331/1. It is considered that craft on Medway should be immobilized as far up as East Farleigh Lock, 2 miles above Maidstone. (C. in C., Nore 1709/2 to Admty)

Immobilization of all small craft satisfactory in Tyne, Derwent, and Tees. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1847/2 to Admty)

Movements

Position of submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 2nd July.
TRIAD, TAKU vicinity Fro Havet.
TRIDENT P C S C 0015.
TRITON D N L Z 1530, both proceeding on surfac to Rosyth.
NARWHAL J Z W T 3030 proceeding on surface to D N X G 1534.
SEVERN JZ T A 3000 proceeding on surface to Dundee.
SNAPPER C. One.
SEALION C. 4.
STURGEON H. 50 in H. 1 and H. 2.
H.50 leaving p.m. for C.P.S.C. 5351.
SWORDFISH N L W T 4300 proceeding on surface to H. 2.
SEAWOLF leaves Rosyth p.m. for C. One.
H. 28 with convoy F.S. 10 proceeding Harwich.
Netherlands S/Ms O21 and O.22 exercising off Dundee. (V.A.S. 1909/1)

MANCHESTER — Arrived Sheerness 2nd July wearing flag of C.S. 18, with SHEFFIELD in company. (C. in C., Nore 0938/2 to C. in C., Rosyth)

E-Boats

1500 — Five E-boats 10' West of Sylt. Aircraft report. (I.C. 0500/40)

War Diary

2.7.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

British Air Activity

Aircraft on patrol S.A. 2 tomorrow morning to proceed within sight of Norwegian Coast to ascertain if further Enemy Convoys are proceeding North. Any west-going Convoys to be shadowed. (Donibristle 0045/2)

Attack on SCHARNHORST

Between 0011 and 0055/2 five Whitleys attacked SCHARNHORST in floating dock at Kiel. Sixteen 500 lb and twenty four 250 lb Bombs dropped and direct hits and near misses obtained and large fire started in area visibl 35 miles away. Between 0006 and 0100/2 eleven Hampdens attacked SCHARNHORST with one 1000 lb and forty 500 lb Bombs (H.Q.B.C. 2124/2)

Note Photographs reveal that damage was not so extensive as would appear from the above reports.

Security Vessels Attacked

Security Vessel 30 W. of Sylt, and another 245° Fano 67', attacked. Results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 2124/2)

Two M/Vs in 51.21' N 9.43'E Bombed and machine gunned direct hits with gun fire but results of bombs not observed. (M.Vs about 2000 tons) (H.Q.B.C. 2124/2)

War Diary

2.7.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

Enemy Air Activity

O.A. Convoy Attacked

Help)O.A. Convoy) 49.N 3.W. (WITHERINGTON 0750/2)

Fighter aircraft have been sent to your assistance (A.C.W.A. 0807/2 to WITHERINGTON)

Convoy O.A. is being attacked by Enemy aircraft in 50.45' N 3. 11'W (WITHERINTON 1634/2) Fighter aircraft being sent. (Devils Point W/T 1650/2 to WITHERINGTON) AENEAS hit and sinking (WITHERINGTON 1636/2 to Devils Point)

NEWCASTLE Attacked

50.10' N., 3.20' W., One enemy aircraft bombing. (NEWCASTLE 1635/2 to Plymouth) Note NEWCASTLE was standing by AENEAS. She was undamaged)

AENEAS has been abandoned. WITHERINGTON has about 120 survivors on board and is proceeding with Convoy. (NEWCASTLE 1857/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

Daylight Raids on U.K.

Daylight raids on U.K. by isolated aircraft; and bombs in the Newcastle-Jarrow area at 1800 caused some casualties and damage. (I.C. 0500/40)

Mining

Aircraft mining suspected during night 2/3 between Harwich and Portsmouth

An Explosion is reported midway between Dover and Calais.

Harwich was closed and re-opended.

Newhaven is closed.

War Diary

2.7.1940
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Barges

At 1457/2 three large Barges stationary in 51.37'N 4.04'E, and one M/V 2000 tons in 51. 35'N 3.35'E course 180° 8 knots. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1715/2)

Cruiser

At 51.40' N., 3.50' E a stationary ship, believed to be a cruiser, seen off Coast; and at 51.50' N 4.30'E six ships seen in two columns abreast, slightly smaller than Destr yers. (H.Q.B.C. 2124/2)

Aalborg

At 1415/2 two large M/V's about 8000 tons at anchor in midstream and six small Vessels on river-side. About 12 seaplanes lying near the north bank about ¾ mile West of the Town. (Donibristle 1950/2)

Cruiser and Destroyers

One Cruiser and two Destroyers at 1457/2 in 330° Heligoland 8 miles course 120° (H.Q.B.C. 0303/3)

Kiel

At 0040/2 a large vessel, believed Warship, in mid-harbour and two vessels believed Destroyers docked on W. side of Harbour (H.Q.B.C. 0303/3)

Shipping

Iceland

Finnish Ships trading between Petsamo and U.S.A. will call fortnightly at Reykjavik. Mails in them to be sent to U.K. for examination, and any passengers not notified not to be allowed to land in Iceland. (D.N.W.D. 1527/2 to N.O.I.C. Reykjavik)

WAR DIARY | FOREIGN STATIONS | 2.7.40 Tuesday

North Atlantic

DOUGLAS — To return to Gibraltar with despatch. (F.O.C.N.A.1109/2).

Force H. — Left Gibraltar 1730/2 in accordance with V.A.Force H's 1426/2 (G.O.I. Gibraltar, 1858/2) (see disposal of French Fleet).

Dakar — U:A.C. ships name not known arrived tonight. In view of my 1200/1, request instructions be given that British ships do not call at Dakar. (Consul Gen.,Dakar, 1915/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French troops. — **Admiralty 1754/1, re diversion of British and Allied ships bound for Casablanca or any French Moroccan port to Gibraltar, does not apply to British ships repatriating French troops referred to in Admiralty 1126/29 as amended by 1841/29 and 1835/30. (D.O.D.(H) to F.O.C.N.A. 1415/2).**

South Atlantic.

ARGYLL — British C.in C. S.A. 2151/1. Is not to sail pending further orders. (D.T.D. 1106/2 to Consular Shipping Adviser Dakar).

French Attitude. — Extract from a memorandum 3158 dated 26/6 received by Admiral, Dakar, from French Admiralty, copy of which was obtained from a French naval officer, urging compliance with Armistice, and that to answer other appeals from outside "would result in our commonwealth territory becoming a German province". (C.in C.S.A.,1846/2).

Dakar. — Report from Liaison Party, Abidjan of strong feeling there both military and civil that British should forthwith occupy Dakar. Military authorities extremely ill-informed of external situation. (Governor, Gold Coast, no.T.O.O./2).

CORFU CANTON — Administration to be transferred to C.in C. S.A.(D.D.O.D.(F) 1506 (2).

Convoy B.C.S. — Revised dates (cancelling his 1119/1) (C.in C. S.A. 1554/2).

WAR DIARY — FOREIGN STATIONS. — 2.7.40 Tuesday

Mediterranean.

Sfax. Consul General Tunis reports following French warships only in Sfax at 1800/1: 2 destroyers, 3 submarines, including French minelaying S/m NAUTILUS and French submarine CAIMAN, 1 submarine chaser. (C. in C. Med., 0945/2).

ESPERO. My 1515/29/6. Intend issue to Press that Italian destroyer sunk by our forces 29/6 was ESPERO. 44 survivors were picked up. (C. in C.Med., 0127/2).

A i r.

Greek Neutrality. Italian aircraft when shadowing and attacking British warships and a convoy of merchant ships repeatedly infringed Greek neutrality by flying over Crete on 30/6. (C.in C. Med., 0135/2).

Mining.

During the week, danger areas due to mines have been located

Off Otranto	-	Within 5 miles of 040°07'N., 018°41' E.
S. of Sardinia	-	Within 2 miles of 38°50'N., 09°03' 18" E. and 38°50'N., 08°56' 36" E.
Off Tripoli	-	Within 2 miles of 33°03' 18" N.,13°16' 36" E.
Off Brindisi	-	In the area enclosed by 40°41.3'N,18°10' E. 40°41.3'N., 18°11.2'E. 40°37.5'N., 18°10' E. 40°37.5'N., 18°11.2' E.
Off Ras El Tin	-	285° 24½ miles. (W.S.I. No.5).

East Indies.

Convoy W.S.I. Request very early information of programme and composition so that escort arrangements may be made. (C.in C. E.I.08142/2).

Air Operations Attacks on Macaaca (Assab) petrol and bomb dumps, aerodrome buildings and dispersed transport. Reconnaissance, Assab town, Macaaca satellite, 2 ships approximately 10,000 tons in harbour. A very satisfactory combined operation by bombers and fighters with excellent results. (A.H.Q.Aden, 1800/2).

China

French Liner.

ILE DE FRANCE arrived Singapore 30/6 requires 6000 tons oil fuel which she is unable to pay for. Pending instructions ship is being detained and oil not supplied. French authorities Saigon informed me she was to have taken troops from Indo-China to France had armistice not occurred. (C. in C., China, 0534 Z/2).

Ammunition.

6-in. Mark XXIII ammunition to be sent to augment reserves in Eastern Mediterranean as directed by C. in C. Med. Other reserved of ammunition at Singapore surplus to requirements of present Fleet. A.M.C.'s and D.E.M.S., or also to be regarded as available for transfer to Mediterranean or E. Indies. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1346/2 to C. in C.'s China, S.A. and E.I.).

America and West Indies

MANHATTAN.

U.S. ship, sailing from New York to Lisbon to evacuate American citizens. Course (D.D.I.C. 1210/2). Not to be interrupted (Hd. of M., 2009/2).

U.S. Aircraft.

Telegram No. 1510, July 2. Details of U.S. Aircraft supplies, rate of delivery etc. Recommend Lieut. Taylor R.N.V.R., be given authority to act in interest of Fleet Air Arm with Purchasing Commission. (N.A. Washington 1510/2).

Australia.

Guards for Ships.

Your 0729 Z/1. As it is possible that s.s. TIRANA has been diverted by Master under enemy threat intend embarking naval guard in similar ships carrying important service stores. Norwegian ACADIA departed Melbourne 30/6 for Colombo direct is being ordered to Fremantle, where guard will embark. (A.C.N.B., 1231 Z/2 to C. in C. E.I).

War Diary

2.7.1940.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

ARANDORA STAR
Sunk

British, 15,501 tons On passage to Canada with German internees, torpedoed at 0610/2 in position 56.20 N, 10.40 W., about 125 miles from Malin Head (Lands End Radio 0610/2, Portishead Radio, 0732/2) WALKER to assist (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0747/2) Sunderland aircraft proceeding to locate (C. in C., Rosyth 0814/2) JASON to assist (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0822/2) Sank before 1000 Had on board British armed guard of 5 officers and 195 other ranks, 86 German prisoners of war, 479 interned male Germans and 734 interned male Italians. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1335/2)

Tugs sent (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0850/2) ST. LAURENT or SKEENA to assist (C. in C., H.F., to NELSON, 0947/2) ECHO to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0940/2)

ARANDORA STAR presumed sunk position 56.30 N., 10.38 W., approx. 20 lifeboats full, many people in water. Urgent help required, no ship here. (A/C 204 Sqdn, 1125/2)

Position given as 56.30 N., 10.31 W (C. in C., Rosyth 1324/2)

Asking whether she shall proceed to assist LETITIA, 1330/2)

FIREDRAKE detailed to assist (PUNJABI, 1311/2) (C. in C., H.F. 1401/2)

Have about 800 survivors with several boat loads to come. (ST LAURENT 1524/2 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Following survivors landed at Greenock from ST LAURENT:-

Officers and Crew	119	
Military Guard	163	out of 200
Italians	264	out of 734
Germans	322	out of 565
	868	

No other survivors picked up (F.Oi/c Greenock 1530/3)

CLAN OGILVY
Torpedoed 30/6

Met by GLADIOLUS in 47.27 N., 11.14 W. steering for Falmouth at 4 knots 2226/1 (C. in C., W.A. 0057/2)

ATHELLAIRD
8999tons

Torpedoed in convoy OB 176 2223/2 at 47.24'N 16.49'W (Valentia Radio 2337/2) HURRICANE ordered to attack submarine (C. in C., W.A. 2343/2 to HURRICANE)

War Diary

2.7.1940.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported
Estimate U/B dispositions

1 in Finisterre Area
2 in Western Approaches
1 in 56.20' N, 10. 40' W. at 0710/2
probably homeward bound.
1 N. of Scotland homeward bound.
Possibly 1 in 58.43'N. 4. 2'W at 0315/2
Course 135°
1 Northern North Sea homeward bound
(D.D.I.C. 1239/2)

2223/2 — 47.24'N 16.49'W Torpedoed ss ATHELLAIRD. Valentia 2337/2)

0215 — 51.19'N 1.50'E aircraft report B 3 (I.C. 0500/40)

2216 — 61.30'N 1.30'E Position very indefinite A.l. (D.D.I.C. 2355/2)

2156 — 53.43'N 5.28'E aircraft report B 3 (I.C. 0500/40)

2232 — Between Shetlands and Faroes. Position very indefinite A.l. (I.C. 0500/40)

2325 — 59.30'N 9.W Position indefinite A.l. (D.D.I.C. 2356/2)

2217 — 55.30'N 9.30'W Position very indefinite A.l. (D.D.I.C. 2355/2)

2211 — 54.N 18.W Position very indefinite A.l. (D.D.I.C. 2355/2)

2224 — 49.20'N 13.W Position very indefinite A.l. (D.D.I.C. 2355/2)

0846 — 45.30'N 7.30' W Position very indefinite A.l. (I.C. 0500/40)

0610 — 56.20 N., 10.40 W, 125 miles E. by N from Malin Head, Co Donegal. (ARANDORA STAR torpedoed)

0315 — Tug QUEENS CROSS reports sighting U/B on surface in position 58.43 N., 4.2'W (ACOS 0921/2) My 0921 after interviewing master of QUEENS CROSS, grade his report C.3. Hatston has sent aircraft to search and I am sending 4 trawlers to patrol off Strathie Point for next 24 hours. (A.C.O.S. 1117/2)

2230 — 49.20'N 13.W D/F report Very unreliable fix (C. in C., W.A. 0209/3 to WOLVERINE)

War Diary

2.7.1940.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Mediterranean & East Indies

Ships Attacked

VORTIGERN — Destroyer, attacked by submarine 36.12 N., 03.49 W at 2237/2. Torpedo hit stem and subsequently sank and exploded. Destroyer hunt failed to obtain contact. VORTIGERN apparently undamaged. (F.O.C.N.A., 1850/3)

War Diary

2.7.1940
Tuesday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

RUBIS

French submarine C.O. to be given opportunity to destroy cyphers, signal books, and other confidential matter, and to be so informed by the Boarding Officer. (V.C.N.S. 2203/2 to V.A.S.)

Casablanca

One French Escort-ship of ELAN class sailed to S.W. returning 1830 (VELOX 2103/2 to Admty)

North Atlantic

LIPARI

My 1107. If French ship LIPARI leaves Casablanc under escort, take no further action beyond re porting the fact. (F.O.C.N.A. 1110/2 to VELOX)

Mediterranean

Force H., Operation Catapult.

Force H. left Gibraltar 1730/2 in accordance with V.A. force H's 1426/2 (S.O.I., Gibraltar 1858/2)

If in harbour ARK ROYAL raise steam for full speed. Collect destroyers to screen her. (see 1st. S.L., 1810/2) Your 1810. ARK ROYAL was omitted in error in my 1426/2 (V.A. Force H, 1945/2)

Admty. 1622/30 No movement to report at Oran Admital Commanding at Oran informs me in confidence French men of war will carry out orders of his Government. (Oran, 1915/2)

Sfax

Consul General, Tunis reports following French warships only in Sfax at 1800/1. 2 destroyers 3 submarines, including French minelaying submarine NAUTILUS and French submarine CAIMAN 1 submarine chaser (C. in C., Med., 0945/2)

South Atlantic

Dakar.
RICHELIEU

French ships believed to be KATIOLA, POITIERS sailing tonight for Casablanca. Appears some armed merchant vessels and destroyers are preparing to sail possibly as escort. RICHELIEU normal. (Consul-General, Dakar, 1915/2

General

British ships in French Ports

French reaction to operation in progress off Oran is uncertain. All H.M. ships in French ports are to be at short notice for steam & prepared for any eventuality. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C's A.W.I., E.I. S.A. and China 1448/3)

War Diary

2.7.1940
Tuesday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ARABIA	Asking is anything is know of her. (D.E.W.D. to C.C.S.A. Aden 1525/2) Reply. Thought to be at Massawa.
EUGENIO C	Left Corunna 1915/2 destination unknown. (Guyatt, Corunna, 1925/2)
	Since 26/6, the following movements have been reported:-
	CONTE BIANCAMANO has passed through the Panama Canal and is now at Colon, where she is arranging to discharge her cargo.
	The AIDA LAURO and LAURA LAURO arrived at Pernambuco and Ceara respectively. The CONTE ROSSO arrived at Lisbon on the 27th June with the British Embassy staff, and embarked the Italian Embassy staff from the MONARCH OF BERMUDA for passage to Genoa.(W.S.I. No 3)
CAPO ARMA	Arrived at Galatz.(W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
CATERINA MADRE	Arrived at Varna. " " "
TORCELLO	Arrived at Varna. " " "
CAPO ROSA	At Buenos Aires, owners of cargo of naptha reported to have taken proceedings to arrest the vessel.(W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
4 Tankers	Teneriffe. Reported to have loaded from American tanker DUNGARNON between 24/6 and 27/6. (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
ADIGE	At Malta, unloaded and is available for sea service. (W.S.I. No. 3, 2/7/40)
POLINICE	At Malta, beached at Marascala, is now afloat and shortly being brought to Grand Harbour. (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
MARZOCCO	Beached near Gibraltar, considered to be a total loss, but salvage vessel trying to salve anchors and cables.(W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
CAPITANO BOTTEGO	Reported at Massawa 27/6 (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
PIETRA LIGURE	Reported at Kismayu or Mogadishu, 27/6 (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
PENSILVANIA	Reported at Puket Harbour 27/6 (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
SOMALI	Reported at Puket Harbour 27/6 (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)
XXVIII OTTOBRE	Reported at an Italian Somaliland port, 27/6 (W.S.I. No 3, 2/7/40)

War Diary

2.7.1940.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MERCUR	Arrived Gothenburg (Consul, Gothenburg 1700/2)
DANZIG	Left Gothenburg " " "
VULKAN	" " " " "
HELIGOLAND	At Puerto Colombia Barranquilla report Italian labour repairing HELIGOLAND see J.I.M. 7 No 15. Ship is raising steam (S.O.I. Kingston Jamaica, 1658/2)

War Diary

2.7. 1940.
Tuesday

WEATHER

Area	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea	Light & Variable	Cloudy with occasional rain in north	Moderate to Good, except in early coastal haze or mist in south.
Horns Reef	N.E. light	Fair to Cloudy	Moderate coastal mist
Channel	Light and Variable	Fine	Good except for coastal or inland fog in Straits of Dover.
Western Approaches	Light and Variable	Becoming Cloudy	Good.
Norwegian Coast	(No information available)		

War Diary

3.7.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Orders in my 1825/2 are to be carried out each night until further orders (steam at 2 hours notice between 2200 and 0500) (C. in C., H.F. 1858/3 to SOUTHAMPTON, RODNEY, NORFOLK, COVENTRY and Destroyers)

Attitude of French

Following has been made to all French Merchant ships. (Begins) All French Merchant Ships or ships under charter to the French Government are ordered to make for French Ports under French control or to ports of states still neutral repeat still neutral and await orders from French Admiralty. 0715 /3/7. (Signed French Admiralty) (Ends) (D.D.I.C. 1710/3)

My 1710/3. This message is an interception of a signal from French stations. It passed for information only and is not to be obeyed. (D.N.I. 2222/3)

French Government have issued an order to the effect that all British ships and aircraft are forbidden to approach within twenty sea miles of French Territory at home or overseas under penalty of being fired on without warning. (B.C.N.S. 2333/3)

West	LONGITUDES	
West	North	East
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War Diary

3.7.40
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Submarines

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/3

TRIAD, TAKU	Vicinity Fro Havet
NARWHAL	Z.Q.8.C.1520 proceeding on surface to D.N.X.G.1534
TRITON	Q.S.T.A.0030 proceeding on surface to Rosyth
TRIDENT	Due Rosyth A.M. from North east
SEALION	Vicinity Skudesnes
SNAPPER	C one
SEAWOLF	T.G.V.D.3820 proceeding on surface to C one
STURGEON, SWORDFISH	in H. one and 2
H.50	Vicinity C.P.S.C.5351
H.28	with convoy F.S.10 arriving Harwich P.M
TETRARCH, SHARK	leave Rosyth P.M. North Eastward
SPEARFISH	leaves Blyth P.M. for A.5. (V.A.S.1734/2)

Operations

Submarines Norway

It is particularly important that submarines should take extra care not to disclose their presence on patrol during the next few days even though this may prevent such a close watch being kept on the exit to the fiords they are watching. (V.A.S.1941/3 to S/M's on Patrol).

E-Boats

0054

Fair Island reports one suspicious small fast Vessel bearing 212° about 13 miles, course 265°, speed 30 knots. Two Swordfish being sent at daylight to investigate. (A.C.C.S.0150/3 to Adty.)

Photographs 3 July show three E-Boats 8' West of Sylt. (H.Q.B.C.0447/4)

Air

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy A/C operating singly or in pairs active between Montrose and Coquet Island. (C. in C. Rosyth 1352/3 to VALOROUS)

BREDA — Enemy A/C bombing my position 57°44' N., 2°05' W., (BREDA 1608/3 to Scapa W/T)

VESTAL — Bombed 8' East of Owers. (Portishead 0823/3)

SKINNING ROBE — Enemy A/C bombing. (WOLFHOUND 1340/3 to Rosyth)

Convoy O.A.178 attacked — Convoy "Topaz" is being attacked by A/C 50°58' N., 1°10' E., (CLARKIA 1640/3)

War Diary

3.7.40
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity (Ctd.)

Bombing attack by two enemy aircraft on Lowestoft at 1624 no damage to depot 1 skipper and 3 ratings slightly injured in town.
(Patrols Lowestoft 1731/3 to Adty.)

From 1600 till approximately 1700 there were air raids over coast in Harwich Sub-command, Bombs dropped apparently aimed at shore batteries at Frinton, Dovercourt, Brackenbury, Southwald, no hits. All missed by about 100 to 200 yards. No bombs near any Naval Property, no Naval A.A. Guns in action, bombs also dropped at Ipswich and near Aldeburgh.
Lowestoft also raided. No Naval damage but a certain amount of material damage in town and a few civilian casualties. (F.O.I.C.Harwich 2103/3 to C. in C. Nore)

Mining

Newhaven — Port closed to all ships 0937. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0940/3 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

2 A/C mines observed to drop 0147/3 near Cork L.V. (outside Harwich) and were exploded a few hours later by L.L.sweep (I.C.0501/40)

Enemy Intelligence

Trondjhem — My 1616/30th June. Large ship at Trondjhem has now been identified as HIPPER class. Other warship cannot be identified. (V.A.S.1014/3)

One M/V bearing 000°10 miles, and one bearing 010° 15 miles, both course 300, my position 61°21' N., 19° W. (FORFAR 1112/3 to Scapa W/T). My 1112. Ships Greek TETI and Norwegian RYM (FORFAR 1200/3 to Scapa W/T)

Aalborg 2/7 — Five medium-sized M/V's and one small one alongside quays and two large steamers at anchor. (C. in C. Rosyth 1848/3). This removes the uncertainty as to whether Aalborg is being used as an assembly port for invasion (C. in C.Report No.23)

58°09' N., 5°24' E. One large screened tanker northbound. (SNAPPER 1749/3 to Adty.)

58°09' N., 5°32' E. Southbound Convoy screened by Trawler and A/C attacked at 1746/3. No result (SNAPPER 1749/3)

War Diary

3.7.40
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Ctd.)

Kiel

Result of photographic reconnaissance today 3rd/7
Shipping in Germania shipyard :-
1 K-class Cruiser and 1 Hipper class Cruiser alongside slips.
In Die Horn:- 3 submarines believed seagoing type.
Battleship SCHARNHORST in Floating Dock.
Pocket Battleship in No.6 Graving Dock.
Aircraft Carrier under construction in normal position in old torpedo boat harbour.
Destroyer believed ROEDER class in construction basin.
1 submarine on slip at Deutschewerke shipbuilding yard.
No other warships seen.
(I.O.Bomber Command. Recd.2240/3)

58°25' N., 5°15' E. Six M/V's, nine Trawlers, and one Aircraft course 170°. (SEALION 1520/3 to Adty.)

Hoorn

1258/3. Ship, believed Cruiser, observed N.W.Coast of Zuider Zee. (H.Q.B.C.0447/4)

Heligoland

One Vessel about 300' long, like a Fleet Auxiliary, proceeding Southerly in Heligoland area.
(H.Q.B.C.0447/4)

Eckernforde

2 large vessels, possibly Naval, 54°30' N., 10°5' E. at 1213 (outside Eckernforde) II.C.0501/40)

Preparations for invasion

It is reported that considerable transportation by train of fast motor-boats, probably M.T.B's is taking place from Italy to Germany. They are assembling at some river in Germany and then moving northwards.

Large scale disembarkation was practised recently at Memel. (I.C.0501/40)

War Diary

3.7.40
Wednesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MARITZA — Split reports loaded bauxite and sailed from Dubrovnik for Trieste 1/7, arrive 2/7. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1629/3)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

EUGENIO C. — Entered Ferrol 2/7. (N.A.Madrid 1200/3) Left Corunna 2/7 destination unknown. (S.O.I.Gibraltar 1146/3)

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aandalsnes

Operation Primrose (continued)

a/c attacks on BIACK SWAN — See Air.

Aandalsnes and Molde

Aandalsnes landing — Morgan's Brigade disembarkation commenced 2100. GALATEA, CARLISLE, ARROW, ACHERON, H.Q. and 550 men at Aandalsnes.
ARETHUSA, CURACOA, 450 men at Molde (C.S.2, 2155/18).

Your 2234/17. (Military landing at Aandalsnes) Landing place Molde. Time as early as convenient. (F.O.C. 2C.S. 2205/18 to Adty.)

Molde landing — Disembarkation completed (CURACOA 2315/18 to F.O.C. 2C.S.)

Capt. Denny appointed S.N.O. Molde.
All possible local craft from Aal-sund, Molde and Kristiansund are to be concentrated at Molde and Kristiansund as soon as possible; required for service in Norwegian waters.

Vinte landing — A force of 200 Marines is to be prepared for a landing at Vinte 63° 12'N, 9° 0'E. For this landing which may be opposed, one sloop and local craft will be used. The force is to be ready at Molde 22/4. Decision re. it will be given within 24 hours. (D.O.D.(H) 2319/18 to C.S.2 for BLACK SWAN).

Aandalsnes

Operation Sickle

Landing from cruisers — Adty. 1633/16. Expect to arrive Buddybet 1930 and proceeding to Molde. ARROW, ACHERON will land one company at Aandalsnes. Arrangements for cruisers unloading (S.C.2. 0525/18 to BLACK SWAN) Can GALATEA berth alongside at Aandalsnes? (F.O.C. 2B.S. 1012/18 to BLACK SWAN).

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

3.7.40.
Wednesday.

S/M's Reported.

0124	51° N. 12° W. Position indefinite. A.l. (I.C. 0500/40) (D.D.I.E. 0310/3).
0214 } 0219 }	47° 45' N. 16° 50' W. Position reliable A.l. (I.C. 0500/40).
0337	46° N. 5° 30' W. Position indefinite A.l. (I.C. 0500/40) (D.D.I.E.0425/3)

War Diary

3.7.1940.
Wednesday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

General

H.M. Ships in French Ports are to proceed to sea forthwith. (1st S.L. 2048/3 to C. in C's)

To assure that French Naval Forces at Oran were not surrendered to the enemy intact, force had to be used. Result is that all French Naval Forces must be regarded as hostile. H.M Ships should be prepared for attack but should not fire the first shot. (1st S.L. 2300/3 to C in C's)

Failing other instructions I intend to attack any French Warship attempting to pass Straits of Gibraltar. (V.C.C.N.A. 2356/3 to Adty.)

Any French Officers and Men who express a desire to adopt British Nationality would be allowed to do so if they serve with us. The French Flag is to remain flying in all ships until further notice (V.C.N.S. 1340/3 to C. in C. Portsmouth, W.A., Nore and V.A.S.)

Plymouth

A.M. 0235/2. French Forces in my command at Plymouth, Falmouth, Dartmouth and Fowey a have been seized. Incident occurred in S/M SURCOUF which resulted in two British Officers being severely w. one rating k. and one w- one French Officers k and one w.

So far as at present known very few Officers and approximately 300 men will elect to remain and fight with us. Remainder are being sent to Aintree Camp for repatriation. (C. in C., W.A. 1653/3 to Adty)

Portsmouth & Southampton

Operation French ships satisfactory. At Portsmouth 1400 seamen, 600 marines and 2 battalions infantry, and at Southampton 1 battalion infantry and 50 seamen commenced operation at 0430. Leaflet raid carried out simultaneously so that men should know at once what to expect. Men appear cheerful and glad that period of uncertainty is at an end. Officers angry and sullen. Hope to send all who return to France to ATHLONE CASTLE at Southampton today. No definite information yet as to number of volunteers to stay. Admiral has gone to London. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0823/3)

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War Diary 3.7.1940. Wednesday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Dakar

Report where RICHELIEU is berthed at Dakar, and direction of Ship's head. (V.C.N.S. 1117/3 to C. in C., S.A.)

On A.M. Saturday 29th June RICHELIEU was riding at single anchor in position 084° Dakar North Breakwater Light 10 cables. Ship riding to wind. Prevailing wind North-Westerly. (C. in C., S.A. 1159/3 to Adty)

Adty. 1117/3 045° Cape Manuel Light 2.6 miles Ship heading 220° (DORSETSHIRE 1125/3 to C. in C., S.A.)

Consider could severely damage RICHELIEU's propellers with depth charges dropped from fast motor dinghy. Request permission to carry out this attack. If approved intend to drop charges at approximately 2300 today Wednesday subsequently withdrawing to south ward. Request any details of boom to North East of Goree Island. (DORSETSHIRE 1350/3 to C. in C., S.A.)

Your 1350/3. I have received no instructions from Admiralty regarding offensive action to be taken against RICHELIEU. Take no action without instructions. (C. in C., S.A. 1425/3 to DORSETSHIRE)

Your 1350/3. Probably only way in is between Resolute Shoal and Mainland owing to Booms. (C. in C., S.A. 1725/3 to DORSETSHIRE)

Your 1350/3. Get ready, but wait approval (V.C.N.S. 1825/3 to DORSETSHIRE)

Your 1350/3 not approved as it would not be affective. (V.C.N.S. 1945/3 to DORSETSHIRE)

HERMES to R/V with DORSETSHIRE at 0600/5 G.M.T. at 270° Cape Manuel Light 15' (C. in C., S.A. 2043/3 to HERMES)

HERMES to be sailed with all despatch to join DORSETSHIRE (1st S.L. 2104/3 to C. in C., S.A.)

/From signal.....

War Diary

26.6.1940.
Wednesday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Your 0131/25 Armistice clause affecting sea forces as received from French is very different from the Italian version

War Diary

4.7.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Code Words For Invasion

Following Code words are to be used for making first reports of Enemy Invasion. They are applicable to Navy, Army and Air Force.

Positions at sea are to be indicated by normal methods, positions ashore are to be indicated by plain language. Place names. Messages are to be prefixed Emergency.

1. Blackbird.	I have sighted enemy ships (surface vessels, Submarines or Motor Boats)
2. Mustard	I have sighted suspicious vessels which I think are probably enemy, but I am not certain.
3. Apples	I have sighted a large number of aircraft believed enemy flying towards shore.
4. Gallipoli	Enemy landing from ships or boats at.....
5. Caterpillars	Enemy landing tanks at.....
6. Parasols	Enemy parachutes (number indicated) landing at.....
7. Starlings	Enemy aircraft landing at...

(D.S.D. 1024/4)

Eire

The possibility of a sea-borne expedition against Eire sailing from Spanish or French Atlantic ports must be borne in mind and all ships operating in Western Approaches should be warned to keep a look out accordingly. (1st S.L. 1855/4 to C. in C., W.A.) (C. in C., W.A. 1906/4 to Ships)

Dummy Coast Batteries Proposed

As apparent objectives of bombing raids yesterday between Frinton and Lowestoft were shore batteries, propose for consideration and early action that dummy batteries should be installed in intermediate positions on coasts, by local labour and under supervision of nearest military authority or battery commander. (A.C.N.S.H. 1732/4 to W.O. and C. in C's)

War Diary

4.7.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. Contd.

My 1858/3 is still in force. (Steam up for two hours notice between 2200 and 0500) (C. in C., H.F. 1850/4 to RODNEY, SOUTHAMPTON, COVENTRY, NORFOLK, Destroyers Negative BERKELEY)

Telephone during invasion

Communication by G.P.O. Telephone on which we so greatly rely is seriously congested. Strongly recommend immediate steps to reduce extent of use of public telephone system for purely domestic purposes, and in any case a vital necessity that only service and Police and Home Defence calls should be allowed from the moment of first news of an attempt at invasion. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2255/4 to Adty.)

Defence of Chatham

Your 4166/0803 J.11. 24th June 1940. Plans should be prepared to organise self supporting bodies of Naval Personnel irrespective of standard of training to occupy rallying-points for defence of Chatham Area when investment appears imminent. (D. of L.D. 1844/4 to C. in C., Nore.)

War Diary

4.7.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

My 1825/2 and 1858/3 keep steam at two hours notice until further orders. (C. in C. H.F. 0204/4 to RODNEY, SOUTHAMPTON, NORFOLK, COVENTRY, Destroyers)

My 0204/4 Fleet reverted to usual notice for steam. (C. in C., H.F. 1126/4 to Adty.)

Dover Patrol

189. Patrol System O.E. is to be brought into force tonight Thursday 4th. (V.A. Dover, 1305/4 to 1st D.F.)

Submarines

Positions 0600/4.
A. Two vicinity HVJJ 3030
B. One vicinity DNXG 1534
C. One vicinity XZUB 0000
D. One C.1.
E. One JZUB 3035 proceeding to C.1.
F. One H.1.
G. One H.2.
H. One vicinity CPSC 5351.
I. One TGVD 4500 on surface to QSMF 4530.
J. One TGQG 3548 on surface to XZUB.
K. One NLWT 3000 proceeding to A.5.
L. Three leave Rosyth p.m. to vicinity QSMF 0850 XZMF 5555 JZUB 2000 respectively.
M. One leaves Blyth p.m. proceeding XZMF 2855
N. One JZGR 1000 proceeding on surface Rosyth.
(D.C. 2050/3)

Position of Submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 5th July.
TRIAD, TAKU vicinity Pro Havet.
NARWHAL vicininty D N X G 1534
SEALION, SHARK vicinity X Z U B.
SEAWOLF C one
SNAPPER J Z M F 3000 proceeding on surface to Rosyth.
STURGEON, SWORDFISH H one and H 2.
SPEARFISH West of A.5. proceeding submerged to A.5.
H.50 vicinity of C P S C 5351
H.40 patrolling off Dover, returning to Dover a.m.
TETRARCH, SUNFISH, TRIBUNE, PORPOISE SALMON vicinity XZTA, 2020, T G V D, 5020, JZVD 1040, RQWT 4530, TGVD 1520, respectively all proceeding on surface to QSMF 4530, QSMF 0850, XZMF 5555, XZMF 2855 and JZUB 2000.
(V.A.S. 1949/4)

War Diary.

4.7.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.
Swedish Destroyers.

Swedish destroyers have been ordered by their Government to dendezvous with CASTOR in 62° N. 5° W. on 5/7. at 0200 or at time arranged by S.O. From there they will proceed to Stadlandet and thence to Sweden. (D.O.D.(H) 1336/4 to C. in C. H.F.).

Swedish Depot Ship PATRICIA and 4 Swedish Destroyers PUKE PSILANDER ROMULUS REMUS sail from Kirkwall at 0200/5 for 62° N 5° W. where they will r.v. with Swedish Oiler CASTOR from Thorshavn at 2000/5 thence proceeding towards Stadlandet. Inform area. (V.A.N.P. 2231/4 to A.C.O.S.)

E - Boats.

Ships attacked.

HARTLEPOOL	Torpedoed 16' S.S.W. of Portland Light (Portishead 2356/4) 50° 16' N 2° 31' W. heavy list (C. in C. Portsmouth 0645/5)
BRITISH CORPORAL	Mined 50° 13' N 2° 35' W. (Portishead 2303/4) Note. -(It is believed ship was torpedoed by E-boat)Can be towed ULLESWATER standing by, SABRE near. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0654/5 to SABRE, SHIKARI, ACHERON, STALWART, Tug ST MARTIN)

E-Boats reported.

0126	55° 50' N 1°20' E. D/F report. unreliable fix. (D.C. o200/4).
2055	Four E-boats 3' N of Cherbourg steering 340° A/C report. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2141/4 and 2206/4)
1530	P.D.U sortie 1530/4 showed 4 E-boats and some activity at Boulogne (P.D.U.I. 1936/4)

Air.

British Air Activity. 5 Fishing trawlers attacked.	At 1800/4 five small Fishing Trawlers attacked off the Hague. One capsized and rest sinking. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2125/4 to H.Q.C.C.)
M V. hit off Bergen.	3 direct hits with 250 lb A/S bombs on M.V. 3000 tons in XZUB 46 24 (Donibristle 1500/5) ship last observed blazing and drifting onto rocks (Donibristle No. T.O.O. received 1922/5)

War Diary. 4.7.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Enemy air activity. Air raid on Portland Harbour between 0830 and 1100. By 20 JU dive bombers. A/A ship ROYLEBANK sunk, casualties heavy, Captain and 11 officers and about 200 ratings saved, of these 50 to 60 serious cases. S.S. CITY OF MELBOURNE damaged and beached. Tug SILVER DIAL and a D.G. Lighter sunk. Little damage ashore. ROYLEBANK maintained fire till last minute. No damage known to have been caused to enemy (F.O. I/C Portland 1300/4)
Note. Portions of this signal are precised in Operations Volume.

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE (5004 tons) Damaged by bombing at Portland (D.O.R. 306)
EAST WALES (4358/tons)

MACOG 50°31'N 11°5'W machine gunned at 1120/4 (Valentia Radio 1122/4)

Unescorted Convoy Attacked At 1412 unescorted Convoy of 14 ships bombed off Leathercoats (South Foreland) by four relays of six bombers escorted by Fighters. (V.A. Dover 0016/5)

JAMES P.MAGUIRE British Tanker 10,525 tons, bombed 0704 Bristol Channel. (Burnham-on-Sea 0704/4 to Adty. (D.S. 303)

Convoy OA 178 Attacked At 1255/4 six hostile aircraft dived almost vertically on Convoy at 50° 13' N 2° 12' W. and one direct hit observed. A second flight of six attacked immediately afterwards, followed by a third flight of three. (Chathum 1655/4 to H.Q.C.C.)
Attack on Convoy 200° Niton 20 miles (Niton Radio 1202/4) 60 Planes attacking (Niton Radio 1346/4)
Fighter assistance standing by (C. in C., Nore 1215/4 to MANCHESTER)
Help Topaz (Plymouth W/T 1300/4 to PortlandW/T)
Lat 50° 10'N long 2°19'W PETERTON Convoy being heavily bombed. (PETERTON 1400/4)
50°10'N 2°33' W Vessel disabled require immediate help (KING FREDERICK 1417/4)
Fighters have been despatched to Topaz (C. in C., W.A. 1450/4 to CLARKIA)
See also Shipping.

/Contd.....

War Diary

4.7.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity, Contd.

The Ships Attacked were:-

Name	Tonnage	Position	Fate
EASTCOTE	5812	12m S.S.W. Portland Bill, 50°10 N., 02°33 W.	Leaking Bombed and badly damaged 3 wounded
KING FREDERICK	5106	21m South of Portland Bill. 50°30 N 02°00 W.	Leaking(KING FREDERICK 1417/14
IRENE MARIA	1806	18m E. of Portland Bill	On fire. Direct hit abaft the bridge.
KOLGA (Estonian)	3526	-	Damaged. Believed sunk. Direct hit abaft bridge.
DALLAS CITY	4952	-	On fire and abandoned, but salvage possible (SABRE Recd. 0029/5) (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0654/5)
ARGOS HILL	7178	-	Engines damaged
FAIRWATER	4108	-	Leaking
FLIESTON	4674	-	Damaged but no details reported
BRIARWOOD	4091	-	Dynamos damaged
LIFLAND	2254	-	Condensers damaged

War Diary

4.7.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Unexplained Explosions — Explosions were reported early this morning in approximate positions: 20 miles W. by S. of Beachy Head, and 5 miles N.E. of Dungeness at 0342.

Maas and E Scheldt mined — British magnetic mines laid in Maas and East Scheldt. (D.N.S. 1635/4)

Enemy Intelligence

60°36' N 4°56'E at 1750 aircraft twice attacke enemy M/V result not observed. (Donibristle 2106/4)

Trondheim — German W/T traffic indicates movements of Naval Units in the Trondheim Area. (D.D.I.C. 0018/4 to C. in C., H.F.)

Convoy of 30 M.V's — At 2120/3 a Convoy of about 30 M/Vs steering 300° observed in 53°22'N 1°2'E (C. in C., Nore 0507/4 to Adty.)

Convoy of 12 M.Vs — At 0030/4 at 53° 5'N 1°20 E a Convoy of about 12 ships course 140 speed 8 knots (C. in C., Nore 0507/4 to Adty.)

Aqueducts on Dortmund-Ems Canal — Photographs taken 2 July show serious damage Details given. (THI 1913/3)

Convoy of 4 ships — At 1222/4 four ships 5000 to 10,000 tons in Convoy 4' W of Helder (H.Q.B.C. 0306/5)

Dunkirk — At 1546/4 one large Cargo vessel stationary of: shore. (H.Q.B.C. 0306/5)

200 Barges near Amsterdam — At 1445/4, 100 to 200 Barges observed being towed towards Amsterdam in sixes on Canal from Utrecht. (HQBC 0306/5)

4 Mine sweepers — At 0945/4 at 53° 15'N 4°25'E four Mine sweeper observed in line abreast steering North. (H.Q.B.C. 0306/5)

SCHARNHORST — In floating dock at Kiel. Description of damage (H.Q.B.C. 1433/4)

80 Barges at Ghent — PDU Sortie on 4th shows 60 out of 80 Barges in dock at Velstraat Ghent departed since 18/6. (PDUI 1831/4)

Ostend — No shipping or other activity on 4/7 (PDWI 2340/4)

Cruiser & Destroyer — Sighted 1515 180° 10 miles 60°16'N 5°36'E (Donibristle 1500/5)

War Diary

4.7.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Coasters in Channel

Admiralty 1404/30. Estimated there will still be average of 10 ships per day engaged in coastal trade on South and South West coasts of England all of whom must proceed via the the English Channel.
Proposed to cater for these ships as follows.
A convoy will sail from Southen every alternate day the first convoy sailing on the 9th July.
Convoys are to be known as Channel Convoys.
Escort of one destroyer from Sheerness will be provided from Southen to vicinity of St. Catherines Isle of Wight whence the convoy will proceed independently.
Time of sailing from Southend will for the present be 0700. The route to be used will be as close to the coast as possible keeping outside the 20 fathom line. (C1 in C., Nore 1716/4 to A.C.W.A.)

Convoy OA 178

Do not enter Weymouth. Proceed with convoy down channel additional escort is being sent. (N.O.I.C. Portland 1907/4 to CLARKIA)

Netherlands Ships

On the authority of the Netherlands Government Netherland Ships are instructed not to call at ports in France or in French possessions and if at sea, bound for such ports, are to continue their voyage omitting French ports, or if in doubt are to sail instead to the nearest convenient British port for orders. (D.T.D. 2246/4 to all Dutch Ships)

OA Convoys

119. My 1716/4. As alteration of OA sailings has been brought into force earlier than was originally intended the first channel convoy sailing will be on Friday 6th July. (C. in C., 2250/4 to A.C.W.A.)

Miscellaneous-Jan Mayern Island

Your 1545/23/6 received to-day. No indication as to enemy occupation except that Meteorological transmission to U.K. ceased about 8/6 and an aircraft sighted 12/6 may have visited the island. Information required:-(D.N.I. 0106/4 to S.O.I. Iceland.)

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0500

WEATHER

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	W. to N.W. Light to Moderate	Moderate to Good in south Very good in north.	Similar
Channel	W.N.W. Light to moderate	Good to very good.	Similar
Western Approaches	W.N.W. light to moderate	Good to very good	Moderate west winds

No reports received, probable weather

Horns Reef	S.W. moderate	Moderate	Wind west mode ate visibility.
West Coast Norway	N.E. light to moderate	Good	Wind tacking to North. Moderate.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

BONAVENTURE — Reports all defects now completed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1135/4 to Adty.)

EL GRILLO — British. Aground at 13° N. 74° 25'W Unable refloat. Have asked KINGSTON salvage Vessel. (EL GRILLO to Min. of Shipping)

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Reported Italian Force.

Ref message 2030/3 (no trace in W.R.) from Sunderland P.9262 reporting 5 battleships, 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers veering 330° Shersol 10 m. Pilot convinced that these forces were Italian. He was attacked by Italian fighters, (F.O.C.N.A. 1208/4)

Las Palmas.

Spanish minelayer NANTE ~~mined~~ arrived. (Las. Palmas, 1715/4).

French Cargoes.

Nature and quantity of cargo arriving from French ports should be reported. (D.T.D., 1211/4 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C., S.A.)

Casablanca, Troopships

Admty. 1129/29, 1525/29 and C. in C., W.A. 1256/3. Presume arrangements have been made with French authorities, Casablanca, for British ships ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ULSTER MONARCH to enter Casablanca and leave again without hindrance. These ships cannot be accepted at Gibraltar with French Troops on board. They are not now required at Gibraltar for evacuation of Polish troops. (F.O.C.N.A. 1258/4)

Your 1258/4 Situation as regards the repatriation of French troops to Casablanca described. Since the ships sailed the political situation has altered. No reason to suppose the French will refuse to receive the ships in Casablanca, but they may refuse to release them. Two ships in O.G. 36, FABIAN and JOHN HOLT, carry Senegalese troops loyal to our cause. JOHN HOLT should be diverted to Freetown at a suitable point, and FABIAN should proceed to Gibraltar to fuel and then sent to Freetown. Object is to land rest of French troops at Casablanca and also ensure that our ships are not held. Endeavour to get into touch with French authorities at Casablanca with a view to obtaining a guarentee that our ships will be released. If any delay awaiting embarkation at Casablanca, negotiations with French should cover this point. Endeavour also being made from here to obtain some assurance from Bordeaux Govt. (D.O.D. (F) 0156/5, to F.O.C.N.A.)

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic, Contd.

Flying Boats — Admty. 1926/4 asking for air watch on Battle Cruiser aground in Mers-elKebir. At present London aircraft only are available. In view of their low speed and certain fighter opposition this is not considered practicable until Sunderland aircraft are again available (F.O.C.N.A. 2354/4)

Convoy — R/V for VOLUNTEER, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, etc., postponed to 0500/7 (D.D.D.(F) 1225/4)

Ships at Cadiz — re CAVEROCK with coal for Cadiz having to discharge next to BURMA (Italian) Asking whether can order to anchor in Bay until latter moves. (Consul, Cadiz, 1807/4)

South Atlantic

Gold Coast — Military situation in view of possible French declaration of war consquent on recent naval action. (General Gifford, Accra to W.O., 1715/4)

Flying Conditions (Watch on Dakar) — Replying to Adty. 1708/4 as to local flying and meteorological conditions. (HERMES, 2100/4

Movements (Watch on Dakar) — Departures, HERMES and AUSTRALIA to join DORSETSHIRE, (S.O.L., Freetown, 0431/4)

Convoys, W.S.1. — Route for W.S.1 cancelling his 1613/3 (C. in C.,S.A. to CUMBERLAND, 0001/4)

S.L.38 — S.L. 38 route (DTD 0017/4 to CARNAVON CASTLE)

Fernando Po — Ref. OAG Nigeria L 201 to Governor, Sierra Leone, reported Sec. of State 684 July 3. Intend to send DRAGON to Fernando Po to evacuate British subjects. (C. in C., S.A. 1003/4) Orders to DRAGON (1129/4)

D/F Stations — Essential to South Atlantic naval organisation that Simonstown, Ascension and Freetown D/F should invariably be tuned to same frequency in order that enemy transmitter may be located reliably by 3 cross bearings. (C. in C., S.A. 1330/4)

Shipping in Brazilian Ports — Under a supplementary neutrality law, belligerent merchant ships which take refuge in Brazilian ports will require special permits to enable them to leave. Brazilian guards will be placed on board such ships during their stay. (Press 4/7)

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic, Contd.

BULOLO. Cameroons	To remain at Manoca until further orders, (C. in C., S.A. 1131/4) Nigerian Commission, Duala, strongly urge BULOLO remaining Cameroon River owing to Critical situation. I have intimated BULOLO to remain until further orders. (C. in C., S.A. to Adty. 1335/4)
Cruisers	Your 1811/3 Commitments of cruiser escorting convoy W.S.1. to Cape after transfer of duty to KENT cannot at present be foreseen. No objection to exchange of duties between CORNWALL and CUMBERLAND in order that former may refit at Simonstown if circumstances permit, and slight delay in onward sailing of convoy B.C. can be accepted. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., S.A. 2342/4)
SIVRI-HISAR	Minelayer, has arrived Freetown from Gibraltar on passage to Istanbul for Turkish Navy via Cape. Cannot carry sufficient fuel to reach Capetown direct from Freetown and enquiries show no fuel of type required can be obtained at any intermediate port. If passage through Mediterranean is impracticable vessel could be usefully employed at Freetown (C. in C., S.A. 1316/4)

War Diary

4.7.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Enemy Destroyers	3 enemy destroyers bearing 170 distance 5 miles, approx course 065, speed 20 knots, my position 264 LJMF 38 (? 37.26 N., 3.22E) (PANDORA, 1025/4)
Algiers. Ships	Consul at Algiers reports French Authorities have now placed armed guards on board and removed breechblocks of guns of 2 British ships referred to in his 1504/3, presumably TEMPLE PIER and HERMES. States he has protested on several occasions against their detention without effect (Consul, Algiers 1504/3, 1740/3) (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1916/4 S.O.I., Alexandria, 1906/4)
Spanish Situation	General responsible for visit of German soldiers to Bilbao has been superseded. No further visits have occurred. Reports of action at Oran have stupified Spaniards. Naval dispositions normal but some leave cancelled. (Madrid, 2010/4)
Black Sea Mines	Roumanian Admiralty has announced that mines have been laid in position 44.27 N., 29.30 E (roughly 40 miles E.N.E. of Constanta) (I.C., 0501/40)
Valona Mine	Floating mine reported 6' W.N.W. of Saseno as island off the Albanian port of Valona. (I.C. 0501/40)
Palma	No noticeable change. Silver from Bank of Spain being loaded in Spanish minelayer JUPITER, expected to leave today. Significance at present unknown. (Consul, Palma, 1930/4)
Cable Cut	One cable cut a.m. today 37°03'N., 12° 41'E thereby linking only 2 cables to Gibraltar (S.O.I., Malta, 1156/4)
Turkey	Ulgen (Naval Secy. & Min of Defence) stated Turkish fighting forces apprehensive Russians further southward advance towards Bosphorus. Russians may be considering mining Black Sea entry to Bosphorus thus gaining control over Black Sea. He is advocating Turks laying defensive minefields to prevent latter action. For the present situation is considered more calm but Admiral considers this may be lull before storm. Turkish active fleet is moving to Ismid. (N.A. Angora 1743/4)

War Diary

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- Air

Malta, Raid

Formation enemy aircraft approached island this evening. No bombs dropped (Governor, Malta, 0154/4)

Enemy Ships

Aircraft report 2 large ships, presumably merchant ships, outside Assab Harbour on 3/7 (I.C. 0501/40)

JERVIS bombed, Malta raided

Malta air intelligence report 1800/3 to 1800/4 L.T. One enemy 3-engined seaplane presumed Cant Z 506 bombed JERVIS from between 500 and 1000 ft. from 1809 to 1835/3 L.T. and was intercepted by fighters, no damage done. July 4, A/S and reconnaissance patrol by Swordfish at 0445 hours L T Nothing to report at 0554 hours L.T. 1 formation of 3 enemy fighters presumably C.R. 32's or C.R. 42's delivered a low flying attack on Hal Far aerodrome while 2 other formations of three fighters each remained over aerodrome. No casualties. U 12 Swordfish aircraft damaged on Hal Far aerodrome repairable. (H.Q., Malta) (1710/4)

Patrols

Operational Summary. All land operations except that No 12 Sqdn. S.A.A.F. employed on 1 coastal and 2 shipping escort patrols in Mombasa area. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1742/4)

East Indies

French Attitude

Am assuming Adty. 2300/3 does not modify instructions in Adty. 1608/1. French ship CARAIBE's intention and attitude are being obtained. H.M.S. CARTHAGE reports June 30 authorities at Diego Suarez generally express strong sympathies with Allied cause. Lack of authentic news and fate of familes in worrying them. Ref 1629/3 from Adty., asks if KENT allowed to call for confidential books from S.N.O. Madagascar, (C. in C., E.I. 0424/4)

Troop Transports

COLOMBO escorting British troop transports TAKLIWA and TALAMBA left Mombasa 3/7. Date or arrival at Aden. (c. in C., E.I. 0750/4)

No outward bound convoy from U.K. to India or Middle East other that W.S.1. is now at sea. Further arrangements stil under consideration. (D.O.D. (P) 1851/4, amended 0935/5)

War Diary

4.7.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

St. Pierre

Master of BELLE ISLE from St. Pierre reported French ship VILLE D'YS arriving St. Pierre yesterday. French trawler also reported on banks. BELLE ISLE will not return to St. Pierre. (N.O.I.C., St. John's, N.F. 1205/4)

Aruba

Admiral, Martinique, informs me he intends withdrawing troops from Aruba July 6. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0952/4) ESTERELLE and QUERCY being used for operation. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1142/4)

French Messages

W/T cypher messages from Martinique to French submarines AJAX, LE CENTAURE, PERSEE and PONCELET. None of them heard to answer. Considerable amount of naval traffic taking place. (FIJI, 2309/4)

ILLUSTRIOUS

State of readiness and working up. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1902/4)

New Zealand

Papeete

Instructions in Admty. 1435/3, all British merchant ships to leave French Ports, were communicated to British Consul, Papeete, who replies unless assurances are given that blockade does not apply to Tahiti learn from French Navy district probability that colony will apply to Japan for commercial treaty. This will entail further Japanese influence over pacific. No vestige of either pro-Japanese or German sympathy here. Colony will consider betrayal of British interests and in consular opinion must lead to bloodshed. (S.O.L., Wellington, 1013Z/4)

War Diary

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Coasting Trade

My 0230/4 Ask French C. in C., from me whether he will agree in our mutial interest to allow British, French and Allied Coasting t trade to continue to run whatever may happen outside the Far East. (C. in C., China, 0231/4 to B.L.O., Saigon)

Your 0231/4 French C. in C., in entire agreement. He concludes that by coastal trade you mean trade from Singapore to Shanghai and Japan. He is equally prepared to give similar agreement for whole Pacific and if possible for Indian Ocean. Do not think he has any knowledge of situation stated in your 0231/4 (Liaison Officer, Saigon, 0800/4)

ILE DE FRANCE

To be detained at Singapore. (Hd. of M., 1516/4, 2247/4)

Japanese Warships

Positions. Alterations to 0851/27/6 (C.O.S. Singapore, 0856/4)

War Diary

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ATTITUDE OF FRENCH

French Const Evacuation Request

If humanly possible request you send a number of warships to St Jean de Luz to evacuate important English colony isolated here in order to avoid certain disagreable incoidents due to presence of enemy. Urgently desire response. (General Lanibrigot, Mayor of St. Jean de Luz, to Adty.)

War Diary

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET.

4.7.40.
Thursday.

U.K.

Secure LEOVILLE at once. (ACNS (H) 0005/4 to C. in C. Rosyth)

My 0803/4. Officers and ship's company of LEOVILLE have been withdrawn and armed guard placed on board. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1102/4. to Admiralty)

Under present conditions French naval personnel are not to be repatriated in British bottoms, and more French ships are being prepared.

French personnel at present accomodated in British ships at Southampton are to be moved to the transit camp, Southampton. French personnel are to be held in the camps at Aintree and Southampton until shipping is available. (D.O.D.(M) 1831/4. to C. in C. Portsmouth)

MEKNES is to be filled to maximum capacity and sailed as soon as convenient for Cherbourg or other Northern French port you may consider more accessible.

2. The Master is to be instructed to return to Southampton and is to be given a certificate before sailing guaranteeing-

(a) That he will only be employed for repatriation of Frenchmen.

(b) That on completion of this work he will be free to return to a French port.

3. If this method proves successful the naval personnel at Aintree as well will be repatriated in this way. (ACNS (H) 1934/4 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Following orders have been given to F.O.I.C., Glasgow, FO.I.C. Tyne and N.O.I.C Methil:-

Armed guards to be placed on board and machine guns and breech blocks of heavy guns of French DEMS to be removed and taken into safe custody. Vessels concerned are NEVADA and ALBERT LE BORGNE at Glasgow. DAPHNE and P.L. IV at Methil and CETUS (Ex-Norwegian, been under French contract) BEAUMANOIR, P.L.M. 22, MEDEE, and LILLIAN (Ex Dane Flying French Flag.
There are none at Greenock,

War Diary.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET.

4.7.40.
Thursday.

U.K.

Sunderland, Hartlepool, Middlesborough or Blyth. (C. in C. Rosyth 2029/4. to Admiralty)

Reference Admiralty message 1831/4 consider Transit CAMP SOUTHAMPTON far less suitable than present ships. Much larger armed guards would be required and breaking out into SOUTHAMPTON would be difficult to control. Propose to retain French crews in STRATHNAVER and ATHLONE CASTLE for the present. C. in C. Portsmouth concurs. (F.O.I.C Southampton 2239/4 to Admiralty).

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DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Dakar

Dakar

HERMES and AUSTRALIA left positions to join DORSETSHIRE (S.C. (1) Freetown 0431/4 to Admty.) In view Admty. 2338/3 amend position R/V to 270½° Rannel Light 21 miles (C. in C., S.A. 0931/4 to DORSETSHIRE)

Following from Admty. Begins French Air Force and submarines have orders to attack British Warships off Casablanca. French submarines to attack British Forces off Dakar. Ends. French Submarines and Air craft off Dakar are to be attacked and destroyed on sight. (C. in C., S.A. 1037/4 to DORSETSHIRE)

Give V.A. "H" all information regarding Flying Conditions at Dakar and up to 100 miles from it. (1st S.L. 1708/4 to HERMES)

Your 2312/2 Parn b Is it still intended RICHELIEU should be attacked if proceeding towards West Indies in view of announcement by Prime Minister this afternoon that one alternative to German demands was to proceed to West Indies. (C. in C., S.A. 2041/4 to Admty)

Realise that instructions in para 2 of my 2005/4 conflict with requirements for watch on RICHELIEU ordered in my 0053/3, 2312/3 and 0455/29. Latter should be regarded as cancelled, and loss in efficiency by institution of a more distant patrol must be accepted. (A.C.N.S.F. 2250/4 to C. in C., S.A.)

Casablanca

VELOX return to Gib. Endeavour to keep watch on JEAN BART by flying boat (1st S.L. 0137/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

My 2242/3 Air reconnaissance of Casablanca today reports 2 battle ships 9 destroyers 11 submarines 12 M/L and M/S and large number of M/V's. No obvious activities. It is thought that one of the Battleships may be Cruiser PRINCE EUGENE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1546/4 to Admty.)

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DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Oran

My 2332/3. 6 French cruisers and 4 destroyers sailed 1715 (Note from Algiers) (F.O.C.N.A. 0102/4 to F.O. Force H.)

As P.M. is making statement in House p.m./4 signal short account of your operations to reach Adty. by 1200 (1st S.L. 0136/4 to F.O. Force H.)

My position, course, speed 0100/4 36.33'N l. 40' W 245. 16 knots. Shall alter to 180. at 0215 and to 90. at 0345 (V.A. Force H. 0155/4 to F.O.C. aircraft Carrier Sqdn., WRESTLER)

My 2140/3 Weather conditions unsuitable for air attack. Am returning to Gib. (F.O. Force H. 0703/4)

Position course speed of French- 3 destroyers FANTASQUE- 36. 52' N 3T 46- 085.-18-enemy are in single line ahead. (? to Force H 0735/4)

Captain Holland reports French Admiral emphasized use of force would turn French Navy into enemies. Angry at sudden presentation terms and minelaying. Would not accept our view regarding German treachery. Convinced means adequate to prevent ships falling German hands. Holland not sure Admiral convinced fire would be opened, think C.O.S. was. My last signal fire would be opened 1730 handed him 1714. Holland left 1725. ~~Holland left 1725.~~ Holland's conclusion that if French Admiral h had agreed to see him on arrival solution might have been found. (F.O.C.H. Force 1045/4 to Admty.)

Your 0136/4 0720 Holland in FOXHOUND arrived Mers El Kebir. French Admiral refused interview. 0935 letter handed C.O.S. containing British proposal set out in Admiralty 0108/2 coupled with strong personal appeal from me to accept .

0910 Force H arrived and signalled message of greeting to all French ships by light expressing hope that they would join us.

1046 told FOXHOUND imperative French should know we would not allow them leave harbour unless terms accepted.

1054 FOXHOUND reported situation unsatisfactory.

/1211.....

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Thursday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Oran Contd.

1211 Message from French Admiral saying first round would alienate whole French Navy and 1227 that he would put to sea and fight rather than accept.

As there appeared no possible alternative (A) or (B) being accepted, harbour mined at 1340. (F.O.C.H. 1040/4 to Adty.

My 1042/4 part 2. 1427 French Admiral reported he had no intention of sailing and 1445 that he would receive delegate. Captain Holland proceeded in again. 1655 signalled French by flashing and W/T, that unless terms accepted 1730 I must open fire.

1728 received message from Holland saying Admiral would (? go) Martinique if threatened by enemy. As this did not comply with any of our conditions air striking forces were ordered to fly off and fire was opened 1754 at 15,000 yards (maximum visibility) from north west so that fire from French ships was largely blanked by Mers el Kebir fort. C.I.C. employed with A/C spotting Squadron on easterly course. Cruisers and some A/C ordered to engage fort. (F.O.C.H. 1047/4 to Adty.)

My 1042/4. Part 3. Battle Squadron soon came under heavy fire from forts and shortly after some 13.5. inch guns. 1804 turned away, made smoke and ceased fire, (three corrupt groups) having been reported from spotting aircraft, two large explosions seen and ships fire apparently silenced. Withdrew to westward to avoid unnecessary damage from Shore Batteries and allow French personnel to abandon ships, aircraft to finish off any ships still active, and ((corrupt group) to return for further bombardment if necessary. Shore Station repeatedly made by wireless "stop shelling" to which I replied "unless I see your ships sinking shall reopen fire" 1831 received aircraft report DUNKERQUE at sea. Turned to eastward, increased to 20 knots and when clear that only DUNKERQUE was out, chased at full speed with H.M.S. HOOD and Light Craft leaving H.M.S. VALIANT and H.M.S. RESOLUTION behind

1914 picked up HOLLAND and party who escaped in motor boat. (F.O.C.H. 1153/4 to Adty.)

War Diary

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Thursday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET CONTD.

Oran Contd.

My 1040/4 part 4. 2022 abandoned chase for following reasons.
(a) DUNKERQUE reported about 25 miles ahead.

(b) Algiers force including 8 cruisers would probably join her about 2050.

(c) Sun had set placing me at tactical disadvantage.

(d) V and W Class destroyers had insufficent fuel for prolonged chase and night operations necessary to destroy DUNKERQUE.

(e) Without RESOLUTION and VALLIANT I had no margin of strength.

(f) RESOLUTION and VALIANT were without screen.

(g) I assumed their Lordships did not wish me to incur serious loss especially of destroyers on these operations, in view of future requirements in Western Mediterranean.

T/B attacks took place 1945; latest report of which is one hit aft and possibly one other. (F.O.C.H. 1311/4 to Adty.)

My 1040/4 Part (V) I committed tactical error in not keeping to Eastward to ensure that if assumption French resistance had ceased and that mines would prove effective barrier was wrong, I could intercept. I must pay tribute to gallantry shown by French.

British casualties HOOD one Officer one Rating slightly injured negligible material damage. ARK ROYAL three Swordfish two Skuas lost but one crew only not recovered. (F.O.C.H. 1325/4 to Adty.)

One aircraft-carrier Bearing 120 degrees distance 3 miles Course 090 degrees 18 position 36° N 1°W 23 point 5.(PROTEUS 1447/4 to S.D. Force H)

My 1447/4. Ship was COMMANDANT TESTE steamship 120° 05 miles course and speed 90° 18 knots. My position 097° 36°N 1°W 23° (PROTEUS 1501/4 to S.O.Force H)

Report when HOOD, VALIANT, ARK ROYAL, ARETHUSA, and 12 Destroyers can sail for Dakar to deal with RICHELIEU. (1st S.L. 1650/4 to F.O. Force H.)

/ Have you....

War Diary

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Thursday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Oran Contd.

Have you any idea to what extent the Battle Cruiser in your 1920/2 as being aground is damaged. (1st S.L. 1925/4 to V.A.H.)

Will it be possible to keep a watch by air on the Battle Cruiser aground in Mers-el-Kebir to ascertain whether any attempt as being made to refloat her. (1st S.L. 1926/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1650/4 Force can be clear of harbour by 0550 Friday. (V.A. Force H,2054/4 to Adty.)

Your 2054/4 Force H will not be required to sail before noon tomorrow Friday. Further instructions will follow. (V.C.N.S. 2240/4 to V.A. Force H.)

Your 1929. Aircraft observation unable to state extent to which DUNKERQUE is damaged. She is definitely aground. (V.A. Force H to 2240/4 to Adty.)

Gibraltar arrival 4th July 1800 Force H. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1826/4 to Adty.)

Algiers

Algiers reports 6 French Cruisers 3 light Cruisers 1 destroyer mentioned in S.O. (1) Alexandria's 1125/2 left harbour 1715/3 for unknown destination (S.O.(1) Alexandria 1100/4 to Adty.)

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Thursday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Alexandria

Adty. 1824/3 was received at 2015 long after dark

2. Godfroy having received a direct order from his Admiralty to proceed to sea using force if necessary and having heard of engagement off Oran now flatly declines to continue to discharge oil or to remove any of his men. He further refuses to proceed to sea voluntarily and sink his ships in deep water; asserts if he is allowed out of harbour he will run for it and fully realizes this would lead to a battle.

3. No amount battling and threats of force will move him though he is resigned to remaining here with his crews on board. He has stated emphatically that if faced with any demand backed by force he will detain ships in harbour at same time intimating that he will do so in a manner as convenient to us as possible.

4. Courses of action open to me are:-

(a) To attempt to seize the French ships by boarding.

(b) To sink them by gun and torpedo fire at their moorings.

(c) To face Godfroy with a demand to intern or surrender his ships with result he will sink them.

5. I have discarded (a) as being doubtful of success as French ships are thoroughly on alert as result of Oran action.

6. (b) will be resisted and will lead to useless bloodshed on both sides and result in French ships being sunk in most inconvenient places and possibly damage to our own ships.

7. Unless T.L see fit to reason otherwise I intend to put (c) into force a.m. 5/7 at which time I hope to have necessary shipping to embark 4,000 French sailors.

8. I fear that in sense of your 1824 3rd July I have failed. (C. in C., Med. 0049/4 to Adty.)

/ Godfroy.....

War Diary

4.7.1940.
Thursday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Alexandria, Contd.

Godfrey now refuses to give any undertaking whatever. Am trying to sow dissention amongst his ships' companies not present at my ultimatum till transports for crews arrive. Firing at him if he moves. Have just had air raid in which at least one French ship fired vigorously. (C. in C., Med. 0827/4 to Adty.)

Your 0049/4.
A. Para 4 (c) It does not seem at all certain that Godfroy in his present frame of mind will sink his ships unless you force him to do so by some threat. What threat do you propose to use?

B. Could they be starved out?

C. Undesirability of a battle in Alexandria Harbour is fully realised, but present situation could not be allowed to persist indefinitely. Have you considered the less objectionable alternative of secretly raising steam and taking British ships to sea leaving the French inside. Your Fleet could then be suitably disposed for engaging the French ships and an ultimatum delivered. It is realised damage would probably be done to shore establishments but any important damage to your ships should be avoided.

D. You have no doubt taken steps to prevent ammunition ships being blown up.

(1st S.L. 1135/4 to C. in C., Med.)

Situation very tense. Godfroy having withdrawn all previous undertakings course of action C. in my 0049/4 no longer applies in full. Chance of a negotiated settlement seems remote, exercised effort being made by F.N.L.O. to persuade Godfroy through Captain to come to some arrangement on lines of alternative B. one. Honour and effect of Oran action stand in way. Consider it would be unwise to force matter to head just yet and prefer to give various contacts on lower plane which are being established chance to take effect. I feel That an action in this harbour ought to be avoided at almost any cost, but Godfroy in his present mood will not scuttle his ships, if faced with an ultimatum backed by force. He will certainly order his ships to open fire if I do so.

/I fully.....

War Diary

4.7.1940.
Thursday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Alexandria Contd.

I fully realise the vital necessity of an early solution if necessary by force.

I am not clear whether Admiralty message 2300/4 applied to Alexandria.

(C.,in C., Med. 1317/4 to Adty.)

Following agreement just concluded with Godfrey

(a) All oil fuel to be discharged from French ships forthwith.

(b) Ships to be placed immediately in a condition in which they cannot fight.

(c) Discharge of ships' companies to be a matter for further discussion.

2. I have hopes that reservists who include many key ratings will be discharged tomorrow Friday.

(C. in C., Med., 1529/4 to Adty.)

Your 1134 4th July. Although most undesirable to have to battle in Alexandria Harbour the situation became such that the threat of sinking the French Ships at their moorings had to be made.

Two. During this forenoon signal to all ships and personnel visit by British Captain were made with object of influencing the Officers of the Ships Company against useless resistance to overwhelming force.

3. (?These) proved successful as unofficial post Prandial meeting the Captain(s) of French Ships prevailed on Godfroy to accept the Conditions set out in my 1529/4th July.

4. Oil fuel is being discharged now and tomorrow the Obturating pads of all large guns including spares and firing mechanism of small guns together with all warheads pistols are being landed for custody in French Consulate General with right of inspection.

5. I will press for departure of ships Companies and Godfroy has already signalled to Ministry of Marine requesting that arrangements be made for their reception. I am counting on economic pressure to hasten their departure and (corrupt group) or reservists.

/6.....

War Diary

4.7.1940.
Thursday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET Contd.

Alexandria, Contd.

6. When defuelling and de-arming measures outlined above are completed I shall feel quite free to take fleet to Sea to continue operations against enemy.

7. It is assumed that operations against few minor French units in Sfax and Susa are not now intended.

(C. in C., Med., 2015/4 to Adty.)

East Indies

Mombasa left 0720/4 G.M.T. French A.M.C. CARAIBE (N.O.I.C. Kilindini 07582/4 to C. in C., E. Indies)

My 0424/4 CARAIBE left Mombasa at 0715/4 for Diego Suarez speed 15 knots. KENT is shadowing her. Captain of CARAIBE is loyal to allied cause but crew is uncertain and dispirited. Captain intends to exchange disaffected personnel and believes more courageous outlook will result. (C. in C. E.i. 12272/4 to Adty.)

Your 1227/4 CARRAIBE should be dealt with in accordance with my 2005/4 (A.C.N.S.F. 2044/4 to C. in C., E.I.)

War Diary

4.7.1940.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

UGANDA — German shipowner Sloman informed Moscow that this newly-built ship about 8,500 tons, will be ready about 8/7 and will be sent in ballast to Leningrad, if no cargo is available for full cargo of oats, lay days being 8/7 to 15/7 (I.C., 0501/40)

MARITZA — Sailed from Dubrovnik 1/7 and arrived Trieste 2/7 with full cargo of Bauxite. (I.C., 0501/40)

SALZBURG — Left for Black Sea port. (Galatz 1449/4)

MONTAN
PICARDIA
HEIDELBERG } Arrived Goteborg (Goteborg 1025/4)

ELBE — Yokohama, returned to anchorage for dry dock. (I.C. 0502/40)

REGENSBURG — Yokohama, taken on board 500 tons oil (I.C. 0502/40)

SCHARNHORST — Kobe, reported to have a crew of only 45, including 6 chines. (I.C. 0502/40)

ANTILLA — (Scuttled at Araba 10/5) Lloyds surveyor reports ship can be raised using the resources of the port. (I.C. 0502/40)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

SISTIANA — Prize renamed MYRICA and then take over by South African Railways and Harbours. Registry and call sign (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1127/39, received 0300/4)

ARABIA — Believed to be at Massawa (I.C. 0501/40)

EUGENIO C — Left Corunna 2/7 and arrived Ferrol same day. (I.C. 0501/40)

CAPO NOLI — 3921 tons, which set herself on fire and ran aground in St. Lawrence on 9/6, has been refloated and taken into Quebec, arriving 3/7. (I.C., 0502/40)

War Diary

4.7.1940.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

CLAN OGILVY
ZARIAN
AENEAS
AVELONA STAR
BEIGNON

CLAN OGILVY, and ZARIAN (torpedoed 30/6) have arrived at Falmouth in tow at 2130/4. Wreck of AENEAS (see D.S. July 3 and July 4) has sunk. AVELONA STAR, and BEIGNON (both torpedoed at about 2130/30 when 300 miles W by S of Ushant) are now presumed to have been sunk. (D.S. 304)

H.H. 7.

British Shrimper. Struck Mine in 51° 53'N. 1° 53'E at 0740/4 crew of 2 saved. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0823/4 to C. in C., Nore)

Mine apparently exploded by Trawl Beam. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1042/4 to C. in C., Nore.)

Dredger

Mined ½ mile outside Amble today. Port is closed.

Submarines Reported

1030 — 53.20 N., 05.55 W., 12 miles E. of ublin, shore report. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 1140/4)

1109 — U/B reported submerged off Kish Light Vessel, reliable (C. in C., W.A., 1109/4) WHIRLWIND ordered to attack. (C. in C., W.A. 1116/4)

1125 — XZQC 2445 (see Submarines Attacked) reported by aircraft.

1240 — XZQC 2338 speed 1 knot (aircraft 612 Sqdn. 1240/4)

1330 — XZAV 1025, course 035, speed 1 knot (aircraft 612 Sqdn. 1330/4)

1229 — Enemy submarine reported in position 49°N., 13°30' W at 1229 (C. in C., W.A. 1304/4)

0010 — 48°50'N 9°-12°W Position very indefinite A.1 (I.C. 0502/40)

1300 — 344° 8 miles from 14°N 17°W 2 submarines (DORSETSHIRE 1532/4)

1910 — 58°12'N 1°50'E Course 150 8 knots aircraft report (Donibristle 2100/4)

1600 — 5 miles N.W. of Cape Roca. Two submarines reported by Consul Lisbon. (F.O.C.N.A. 0105/5 to VISCOUNT)

War Diary

4.7.1940.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported, Contd.

2000 — 57° 18'N 4° 16'E Course 120 speed 8 knots aircraft report (224 Sqdn 2000/4)

2030 — 57°18'N 3° E Course 270 speed 6 knots. On surface aircraft report (Dénibristle 2815/4 to Adty.)

1440 — 5 miles off Berry Head proceeding West. VANQUISHER to attack (C. in C., W.A. 1556/4 to VANQUISHER)

2035 — 58° 12'N 2° 56'E course 010 speed 6 to 8 knots. Aircraft report (Denibristle 2253/4)

1927 — 57°52'N 2°30'E course 030 speed 10 to 12 knots On surface. British (Denibristle 2253/4)

Portugal

1540 — 2 U-boats reported 38°45'N 9° 35'W (I.C. 0502/40)

Submarines Attacked

1125 — Am over enemy subpmarine in position XZQG 2445. Have attacked with dive bombs and estimate no hits. (A/C 612 Sqdn., F 1125/4)

1310 — Have attacked enemy submarine with bombs level, estimate no hits. Position XZAV 0230 (A/C 612 Sqdn. H, 1310/4)

1602 — Have sunk or damaged one submarine (DORSETSHIRE 1602/4)

WAR DIARY | HOME COMMANDS | 5.7.40 Friday

Defence of U.K.

Operation Order P.E. — Orders for Cruisers, destroyers and convoy escorts in case of invasion. (C. in C. Nore 1550/5). Note. Copy is in Operations Volume.

Dover Patrols. — Night 5/6 July (V.A.Dover 1959/5).

Operation PURGE. — My 1550/5.

Humber Force.

Group 1. JUPITER and JAVELIN on patrol U (Flamborough to Sheringham).
Group 2. JACKAL JAGUAR, KASHMIR, KELVIN. ESK, INTREPID, and GALATEA and AURORA.

Harwich Force.

Group 3. ACHATES, VERITY and VENOMOUS on patrol K (Smiths Knoll).
Group 4. SHEFFIELD, WHITSHED, ARROW, AMBUSCADE on patrol M (Aldeburgh (SHEFFIELD 1938/5, C. in C. Nore 1714/5, 2111/5).
Group5. WIVERN, MALCOLM, VETERAN, ANTHONY, WILD SWAN and CARDIFF. (Capt. D16 2024/5).
M.T.B.'s 22, 24, 29, 14, 17, 18.
C.M.T.B.'s 104, 106, 107.
M.A.S.B.'s 6, 7, 8, 10. MALLARD PUFFIN SHELDRAKE PINTAIL.

Sheerness Force.

Group 6. BIRMINGHAM, CAMPBELL, VIMY, VERSATILE, VIVACIOUS and WINDSOR.
Group 7. WALPOLE VESPER on patrol S. (Margate). C. in C. Nore 2010/5).

Disposition of Home Fleet — Proposals by C. in C. H.F. (C. in C. H.F. 1417/5) see operations Volume.

Movements

20th D.F. — Ships of the 20th D.F. which have embarked their guns are placed under operational control of C. in C. Nore who is requested to use them as escorts for Minelaying operations whenever possible. (D.O.D.(H) 1402/5 to C. in C. Nore, Capt. D.20).

Swedish destroyers. — My 1908/4. Destroyer left Kirkwall 0200/5 for same R.V. accompanied by Swedish depot ship PATRICIA (R.A.(S) 0951/5).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Namsos.

Operation Maurice. CS18
General Wiart.

(CS 18, D6, GLASGOW, SOUTHAMPTON, WX Convoy, MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, CURLEW, ARETHUSA).

A/c attack on Varnes aerodrome 18/4. By 2 R.A.F. planes. No Germans at aerodrome during raid, sometimes 30 planes there. No. damage to aerodrome. Railway line hit.(Capt. D4 0141/19 to Admiralty).

Jetty. Jetty at Namsos is very frail. No cranes or tugs. Essential only small ships are sent. Ship size of CHROBRY grave risk (F.O.C. 18 CS 1827/18 to Admiralty).

BLACKHEATH and BALMAHA cannot be accepted at Namsos at same time as French ships and therefore not before 22/4 (F.O.C. 18 C.S. 2217/18 to C.in C., H.F.).

A.A. protection. CAIRO. Assume you have A.A. cruiser available for F.P.one (D.O.D.(H) 0049/19 to C.S.18) to return to and remain in Namsos area to provide A.A. protection for French convoy due to arrive 2000/19 (C.in C., H.F., 0137/19).

CHROBRY unloaded, sailing from Namsos now some local timber embarked (Capt. D4 0320/19 to F.O.C. 18 C.S.).

FP 2 Sailed 1730/18.

FS 2 Sailed 2330/18. (D.C. 0401/19).

French troops. Troops disembarked. 2 transports completely cleared of stores and 2 part cleared (CAIRO 0230/20 to C.in C., H.F.).

Crew of enemy a/c force landed captured 18/4 Namsos area state enemy do not know we are here. Suggest immediate action with B.B.C. who have been putting us on air. Enemy highly suspicious therefore bluff doubtful value. (Fleming to W.O. CAIRO 2159/19).

WAR DIARY HOME COMMANDS. 5.7.40
Friday

Movements

Patrols.

One ship of 2nd C.S. and two of 5th D.F. are to reinforce patrol "J" during dark hours tonight, Saturday. C.S.18 to detail one ship for patrol "M" as in my 1442/5, this cruiser to return to Southend tomorrow. (C. in C., Nore, 1146/6).

SHROPSHIRE Ready for sea in all respects. (F.O.I.C., Greenock. 0759/5). Is placed under orders of C.in C., Home Fleet, temporarily. (D.O.D.(H), 1232/5).

HURRICANE Orders to meet Convoy HX 53 as far west as practicable-route of convoy (C.in C.W.A. 1601/5).

AURORA. On passage from south, due at Humber 2100/5. (C. in C., Nore, 0934/5).

GLASGOW Intend her to sail for Scapa for practices (C.S.18 1215/5 to C.in C. H.F,).

H 50 Orders to leave patrol 6/7. Route (50 S/m's Harwich 1137/5).

Submarines Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/6.
TRIAD TAKU vicinity for Havet
MARSHAL X Z S C 0030 proceedding on surface to Blyth
TETRARCH Q S M P 4530
SUNFISH TRIBUNE PORPOISE X Z S C 3040 X Z M F 3010 X Z T A 0030 proceeding on surface to Q S M P 0850 X Z M F 5555 and X Z M F 2855 respecitvely.
SEALION SHARK vicinity X Z U B
SEAWOLF C One
SALMON J Z U B 2000
SPEARFISH A5
STURGEON SWORDFISH H one and 2
H 50 C P S C 5351 leaving P.M. for Harwich
H 28 leaves Harwich P.M. to relieve H 50
H 49 patrolling Dover Strait 0100 to 0800.
(V.A.(S) 1729/5.).

DEVONSHIRE To proceed as ordered by C.in C. H.F. on arrival of EMPRESS of AUSTRALIA at Reykjavik (A.C.N.S.(H) 1559/5) Proceed Scapa (C. in C. H.F. 2239/5 to C.S.I.).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Namsos.

Operation Maurice.

Your 1646/19. Cannot reach Namsos Fiord in time for tonight for tonights landing (C.S.18 1850/19 to C.in C., H.F.).

Previous instruction cancelled. MANCHESTER, extra A.A. cruisers and one destroyer return to Namsos area and assist the French. BIRMINGHAM return to Scapa. GALATEA, ARETHUSA to Rosyth. One A.A. cruiser to Aandalsnes area, one A.A. cruiser return to Scapa. (C.in C., H.F., 1646/19).

Your 1646/19. Please explain to French Admiral why I cannot be present tonight when they make their first landing. He will be unlikely to appreciate my intervention at a later stage and his present force should be adequate (C.S.18 1942/19 to C.in C., H.F.).

Wiart to W.O. Hope to disembark troops but fear will not get all stores off. French Admiral disinclined to remain tomorrow unless at anchor which up to date has been impossible owing to enemy a/c's. If he leaves I shall have no means of communication with you. All our destroyers have left and CAIRO sole remaining ship is short of ammunition and will probably have to leave also. Can you send destroyer to Namsos each night to report on situation (CAIRO 2044/19 to Adty.).

WAR DIARY HOME COMMANDS 5.7.40
Friday

E Boats

s.s.BRITISH CORPORAL — Required help 50°13'N 2°35'W at 0003 (C.in C. W.A.0036/5 to VANQUISHER, CLEARKIA) Tug ST.MARTIN and another rescue vessel leaving Portland to assist BRITISH CORPORAL and HARTLEPOOL both torpedoed S.W. Portland 20 miles. Report if further tug should be sent from Portsmouth, if you are in contact (C. in C. Portsmouth 0300/5 to SABRE.)

s.s.HARTLEPOOL — Torpedoed send tugs, 20 miles S.W. Portland Bill. (Intercept, Land's End Radio Received 0230/5). Proceed to assist BRITISH CORPORAL, HARTLEPOOL and RILEY (C. in C. Portsmouth 0316/5 ACHERON, SHIKARI.) Fighter A/C's all being sent to your assistance (C.in C. W.A. 1719/5 to SHIKARI)

Boulogne. — R.C.1639-1346. No E boats in Boulogne (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1602/5).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Trondheim.

Operation Hammer.

IVANHOE
ICARUS
IMPULSIVE
(D 20).

Your 1639/18. Request they may be sailed for Rosyth as soon as possible without mines. (C.in C., H.F., 0105/19 to Admiralty).

Operation Hammer.

ORION
SOBIESKI
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL

Details of embarkation of assault force. Rosyth 21/4, Greenock 20/4. All cruisers will carry approx. 300 men and 30 tons stores each. Two cruisers to carry an ALC. RM 3.7" howitzer battery. Divisional Staff &c. Ships to be used 4 cruisers, 17 destroyers, 58 loops (apparently 4 battalions including Canadians). Stores and reserve 147th Bde.

Naval Base Staff embark 19/4 in SOBIESKI and DUCHESS OF ATHOLL at Clyde and s.s.ORION at Rosyth, troops will be transferred at Scapa 21/4 to cruisers. (D.O.D.(H)0117/19 to C.in C., H.F.).

General information.

Guns on Agdenes Point, 15 or 21 cms. No. 3. fort is demolished &c. Troops originally only 1200. German ships are still thought to be getting in. Minelayer FROYA was blown up by her crew near Ostract 63° 42' N. 9° 45' E. but is alleged to have laid her mines first near head of mined Tronheim Fiord but without detonators. SLEIPNER and TRYGG were at Molde. GARM and one B class ship are in Sogne Fiord. Molde is evacuated. Small uncompleted sea-plane base on S. side Mitteren I. 9° 7' E. Germans are using racecourse just E. of Trondheim and frozen lake 63° 21' N. 10° 37' E. as auxiliary aerodrome and clearing land for further landing ground. Underground petrol tanks near lake, petrol situation probably becoming increasingly difficult. (C.in C., H.F., 1238/19 to Admiralty).

British Air Activity

Bomber Command.	Intelligence Summary No.285 (H.Q.B.C. 0405/6
Boulogne	Reconnaissance report (Chatham 1856/5).
Utsire to Lister	Reconnaissance report (Donibristle 1946/5).
French Coast.	Reconnaissance report (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1625/5.)
2 cruisers to be attacked.	A/c 1515,6 Swordfish proceeding towards Utsire to attack expect to arrive about 2000. Skuas will follow. Request fighter support (F.O.C.C.S. 1628/5 to C.in C. H.F., Admiralty, C.in C.Rosyth, 18 group) My 1628. Swordfish expect to arrive at objective 2045. Skuas will follow to attack at same time (F.O.C.C.S.1752/5) Fighter support arranged with Hatston (C.in C. Rosyth 1744/5).
Kiel and Wilhelmshaven	Results of R.A.F. attacks on (B.C. Intelligence Summary 284, H.Q.B.C., 2127/5)
TETRARCH, SUNFISH attacked.	Were you attacked by a/c about 2000/5 (Capt S.S 2141/5 of SUNFISH) Yes. Undamaged (TETRARCH 2204/5) No. Exchanged recognition signals with Hudson a/c at 1902 in 58°25'N 2°12'E (SUNFISH 2230/5) Were you attacked about 1944 in approximately 27°XZ + A 15 with bombs or torpedoes (R.A.(S) 0114/6 of TETRARCH) A/c's 2000. TETRARCH was bombed and is undamaged (V.A.(S) 0028/6 to Admiralty). TETRARCH 2204/5. Please give me position of TETRARCH when bombed. (A.C.C.S.1003/6 to V.A.(S)).
Enemy Air Activity	Ship attacked 2300 in 50.13'N., 02.35' W. (C. in C., Portsmouth, to SABRE, SHIKARI, SCIMITAR, ACHERON, 0035/5).
	Am about to take in tow derelict British ship in position 50.12'N., 1.41'W., burning aft. Request salvage tug. On arrival tug intend proceeding to Portsmouth. (SHIKARI, 1446/5).
SHIKARI	Help, 50.18'N., 1.39'W. (SHIKARI,1625/5). Ship being bombed (SHIKARI, 1627/5). Enemy a/c attacking. (SHIKARI, 1647/5).
Lympne	Over 30 bombs dropped by enemy a/cs on Lympne aerodrome in late afternoon 3/7. Damage details. No action being taken to repair Admiralty huts or materials pending a decision as to Air Ministry requirements. (Adm.Supt., Chatham, 1240/5).

War Diary.

19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Trondheim.

Operation Hammer.

LAKS — Norwegian T.B. reported in German hands at Trondheim. Norwegian T.B.'s SILD and SKARV in that vicinity may also be German (AUCKLAND 1839/19).

Blockade. — Your 0046/19. Appears possible enemy contemplate sending reinforcements and supplies to Trondheim by sea. Strict blockade therefore essential which apparently can only be achieved by patrol of Kraakvag Fiord and another in Trondheim Leden. Arrange accordingly (D.S.N.S. 2120/19 to C.in C., H.F.).

Enemy forces ashore. — P.O.C. 2 CS 0045/19.

German forces Namsos-Trondheim area considered increased to 5000 by air landings (W.O. 1651/19 to Wiart and Morgan) Estimate 3900 (W.O.2125/19 to Maurice, Sickle).

A/S trawlers. — 19 with A.A. armament can be ready to leave Aberdeen am/21 for operation Hammer if required. (D.A./S.W. 2011/19 to C.in C., H.F.)

WAR DIARY — HOME COMMANDS — 5.7.40 Friday

Air

Enemy Air Activity

French A/c's. — Encountered over British Isles or near our coasts are to be regarded as hostile (Air Min. 1525/5).

BROKE. — Bombed. 49 48'N. FT 33 (BROKE 1955/5).

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Operation B.8.22. — Intend sailing TEVIOT BANK escorted by INTREPID and ESK leaving Humber at 1500 tomorrow. Request sweepers may R.V. Laying to commence at about 1500. Request air escort. (D.20, 0931/5).

Harwich. — Report received that mines dropped off harbour entrance. Anticipate clearing before your schedule time of arrival off entrance, but do not proceed west of Cork light vessel until Channel reported clear, then keep strictly to centre line. (N.O.I.C., Harwich, to CARDIFF, Capt.D.16, destroyers and corvettes at sea, 0235/5). Channel is now clear. Ships may now enter harbour (N.O.I.C. Harwich 0748/5).

Enemy Intelligence.

Cruiser, Destroyer. — 1 cruiser, 1 destroyer bearing 270 degrees. distant 1 mile, course180 degrees. My position 60.15'N., 5.36' E. (A/C,269 Sqdn., 1515/5). Enemy speed 10 knots (A/C, 269 Sqdn., 1520/5).

SCHARNHORST. — PJAR/IW reference report NO104, dated 5.7.40, delete para. 1 on page 2 and substitute:-"In addition to the battle cruiser SCHARNHORST in the southern floating dock and the KOLN class light cruiser in the commercial port, there are also present the following". (PDUI, 0950/5).

LUTZOW — Photographs taken of the pocket battleship in the graving dock at Kiel confirms that the vessel has been badly damaged and a part of its stern has been blown away. (Air Min. D.S.351).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Aandalsnes. Capt. Denny.
Brig. Morgan.

Operation Primrose.

(BLACK SWAN, BITTERN, FLAMINGO, AUCKLAND, CURACOA, CS2, R4).

My 2015. Arrival of AUCKLAND with R.M. enthusiastically received. Re. A.A. defences. Aalesund now a defended port without A.A. defence. (ACUKLAND 0229/19 to BLACK SWAN).

Indicate your position and intended course and speed to enable Battle Flight to reach you when range permits (D.C.G/30/19 to CS2).

Landing effected. Primrose. Morgan to W.O. Landed Aandalsnes 2100/18 Without incident. Primrose here with 500 men 8 pompoms also detachment Aalesund 200 men 2-4" L.A. Cooperating with Norwegian 11th Rifle Regiment holding ports to Dombaas inclusive.

Sickle. Am moving Sickle direct to Dombaas at once. (F.O.C. 2 CS 0045/19).

When cruisers have sailed 0300/19 BITTERN return to Aalesund, FLAMINGO proceed alongside to Molde and transport troops to Aandalsnes. (CS 2 0052/19).

Your 0815/19. Have joined up with CS 2 15 miles W. Buddybet. Instruction to attack has been made (CURACOA 0935/19 to Admiralty).

Landing at Vinte by RM. Admiralty 2319/18 para C. BLACK SWAN detailed (BLACK SWAN 1420/19).

Brigadier proposes sending 100 R.M. and 88 Naval ratings from Aalesund. Marines have detachments as far as Verna 22 miles inland. No personnel can be withdrawn without relief. (BLACK SWAN 1620/19).

WAR DIARY — HOME COMMANDS — 5.7.40 Friday

Enemy Intelligence

Two Cruisers. — 49°34'N. 0°59'W. 2 ships thought to be cruisers stationary at 1212. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1625/5).

Five m.v's. — A/c report 5 m.v.'s 63°11'N. 7°52'E. Course N.E. at about 1600 (R.A.(S) 1827/5 to s/m's on patrol).

Shipping.

Convoy H.G.36 — Route, and altered destinations for PINTO and NYANZA (C.in C. W.A., 1109/5).

Air Attacks, Diversions. — In view of enemy air activity in the Channel, following diversions of shipping ordered pending introduction of universal routeing through Northern Approaches. (D.T.D., 1335/5 D.T.D.0042/6).

FOAN Convoys. — My 1404/30. F.N.convoys in which O.A. convoys are included are to continue to be called and referred to as FN with existing consecutive number. Cancel instructions as to distinctive name FOAN. (D.T.D.1429/5).

Convoy OA 178 (Attacked by a/c's 4/7) — Your C036 and ? your 1342 am not in company with CLARKIA and am escorting about 30 ships of Convoy OA 178. Am remaining with them (VANQUISHER 0129/5).

OB Convoys. — Procedure for promulgating preliminary instructions for OB Convoys northabout (C.in C.W.A. 1541/5).

OA Convoys. — do. for O.A.Convoys (C. in C.W.A.1539/5).

My 1900/4. You are not to part company with convoy during dark hours (C.in C.Nore 1814/5 to VANESSA) Expect to join convoy at 0100/6 (VEGA 1500/5 to HIBISCUS).

Miscellaneous

Norwegian M.T.B.'s. — My 1545/30. Now officially agreed with Norwegian Govt. that these two units of the Norwegian Navy will serve with their crew as part of M.T.B. Flotilla at Dover under our operational control, an R.N. W/T rating being appointed to each boat. (Hd. of M. 1039/5 to V.A. Dover).

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Aandalsnes, Aalesund.

Aalesund force.

Primrose to Admiralty. Re. AUCKLAND's 0229/19 to BLACK SWAN. Unless A.A. guns can be sent to Aalesund propose that force there be withdrawn. Sickle can neither spare naval A.A. guns from Aandalsnes nor any from his own force. Ends 1230/19. (concur with Primrose (BLACK SWAN 1310/19 to Admiralty).

Aalesund has not been bombed though enemy a/c's pass frequently. Main W/T V:Kero I. bombed, out of action, small station Norve I available. Possible 4 parachute mines dropped E. and Harhams Fiord 62° 38' 5° 14'.(AUCKLAND 1425/19).

FLAMINGO, BITTERN return to Rosyth forthwith. (C.in C. Rosyth 1843/19).

Your 2029/19. Leave force at Aalesund and conceal guns. Two. H.A. guns should arrive about 23/4 (D.O.D.(H) 2256/19 to AUCKLAND).

Aalesund force to be withdrawn.

Your 1310/19. Approved to withdraw force temporarily. A.A. guns are being sent as soon as possible. Inform inhabitants withdrawal will be until guns arrive (D.O.D.(H)1750/19). My 0229 and BLACK SWAN's 1310. Withdrawal after such short interval would have deplorable results. Local Militia completely untrained. If ideal of some HA/LA guns even short range cannot be achieved strongly recommend retention of troops and withdrawal of LA guns. OC troops fully concurs(AUCKLAND 2029/19 to Admiralty).

War Diary 5.7.1940.
Friday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

INCOGNI

Propeller damaged by striking submerged object. Speed reduced to 16 knots. To dock in Clyde (R.A. (D) H.F. 1906/3, D.O.D. (K) 2255/5)

War Diary.

19. 4. 40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand.

U.S. Convoys.

Your 1250/17. N.2 Government would prefer to substitute an 8" cruiser for 6"&c. (N2 NB 1926/19).

Regret no further strengthening of escort practicable at present (D.O.D.(F) 2000/20 to NZNB).

War Diary

5.7.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Minelaying, Gibraltar — Asking if French have got ovr magnetic mines. Some evidence of minelaying Gibraltar last night. (V.A. Force H to Adty. 1005/5). Reply in detail. (D.T.M., 1405/5).

Air Raid — Air raid on Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.A. 0615/5). Raid over. (F.O.C.N.A., 0629/5). Details. (No damage, possible minelaying). (F.O.C.N.A., 0742/5).

Possible French Planes — 3 foreign aircraft believed French flew over Rock 0130 and one at 0615, latter dropping 8 bombs in sea, engaged by A/A fire, and driven off, rumboured fall of Straits later. No damage, no casualties. Reconnaissance aircraft believed French returned 1800 and 1900 great height and turned out of range. Objective believed to be H.M.Ships. (Governor, Gibraltar, 2055/5).

Oilers, Force H. — BRITISH LORD, CYMBELINE, and CEDARDALE available. (D.O.D.(F) to V.A., Force H, 1242/5).

Iron Ore Convoy — Leaving Bilbao 9/7 for U.K. To be escorted. (D.O.D.(H) 1848/5).

Troop Ships — FABIAN and JOHN HOLT, carrying 2000 French native troops to Freetown. Request you ascertain if they may enter Lisbon 7/6 to obtain supplies of food and water. To be sailed afterwards indepentently for Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 2039/5, to N.A. Lisbon). In view of my 2039/5, para (e) of my 0156/5, repatriation of French troops at Casablanca, is cancelled. (D.O.D.(F) 2127/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

British Submarines — Your 1652/5 and my 1400/5. PANDORA and PROTEUS are to comply with para. 3 of my 2005/4. On completion of your current operations PANDORA and PROTEUS are to proceed to Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F) 1948/5, to V.A. Force H.). Orders to PROTEUS (V.A.,H, 1734/5

Cable Cutting — When your commitments become less heavy request you will consider using a destroyer equipped as necessary from cable ship MIRROR to cut the cable between Barcelona and Marseilles. (D.O.D.(F) 1622/5 to F.O.C.N.A.).

War Diary

27.4.40.
Saturday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

ARROW — (Damaged 26/4 q.v.) Damage is considerable, will require docking; proceeding to Middlesborough (R.A.D. 1527/27).

NORTH CORNWALL) MESSINGTON COURT) — at Narvik. Damaged 13/4 in attack. Observed from deck of IVANHOE to be still afloat and upright and apparently undamaged. Probable they may be holed by shell fire or damaged by swinging to anchor over wrecks. (T.D., B.M.S.E. No. 26).

BLYTHMOOR — Was sunk at Narvik 10/4 (do).

EXPRESS — Damaged while entering a lock at Immingham 27/4 (C. in C., W.A., 0322/29).

Foreign Stations

MOUNTPARK — (damaged 26/4). Returned Gibraltar after collision in Convoy. (V.A.C.N.A., 0942/27).

FOREIGN STATIONS

China (Contd.)

Consting Trade — I am awaiting reply to my 0231Z/4. In meantime I suggest our interests will be best served particularly viss vis the Japanese by endeavouring to maintain our shipping relations with Indo China on a normal basis. Japan's Economic Dependence on her Indo China trade and particularly on rise would render any interference by blockade most dangerous. Part of her trade is in allied chartered bottoms and I have therefore allowed these to proceed to Indo China. An early resumption of normal relations which I hope will be possible is therefore most desirable and early approval is requested to use my discretion to achieve this aim. (C. in C., China, 0500Z/5).

America & West Indies

French A.M.Cs — Have guaranteed to Admiral Martinique safe passage for A.M.C. ESTEREL and QUERCY leaving Aruba 6/7 with troops for Martinique provided they do not attempt any war like action. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1012/5). Informing Curacao.
If Dutch are nervous suggest VAN KINSBERGEN should visit Aruba and stay until French leave. (C. in C., A.W.I. to S.N.O., Curacao, 2002/5).

Martinique — Your 2015/4. Details of shore defences Martinique. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1035/5).

French Ships — ANGOULEME arrived Punta Arenas, Costa Rica, seeking neutral port. (Port Limon C.R. 1739/5) OREGON arrived ditto. (Port Limon, 0945/5).

War Diary. 9.5.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

BIRMINGHAM's Force.

BIRMINGHAM and our destroyers will be operating between 57°30'N and 56°20'N as far east as 6° 0'E during night 9/10 May (R.A.(S) 1331/9). Your 0302/9. Intend to sail at 0645/9 (BIRMINGHAM 0558/9).

Turn to northward. Turn to northward further instructions follow. (Adty 0856/9 to KELLY, BIRMINGHAM). Steer 080° 20 knots after passing May Island (V.C.N.S. 0900/9 to BIRMINGHAM, JANUS, HYPERION, HEREWARD, HAVOC).
Turn to northward further instructions follow (V.C.N.S. 0907/9 to KANDAHAR, HOSTILE). Join BIRMINGHAM if practicable (V.C.N.S. 0920/9 to D.5, KIMBERLEY, KANDAHAR, HOSTILE).
REPULSE and destroyers return to harbour forthwith (C-in-C., H.F. 0951/9).

KELLY's force to join KELLY, KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY, HOSTILE join BIRMINGHAM. Position, course, speed. (C-in-C., HF. 1003/9).

Steer to meet enemy. BIRMINGHAM and destroyers in company steer to meet enemy force of 1 T.B., 4 minelayers, 3 destroyers.

FURY's force to join. FURY with MOHAWK, FORESIGHT, BULLDOG, GALLANT are to be in position MBWY, 2122 (57°21'N, 2°22'E), at 1850 and after sinking 6 M.T.B's in that vicinity proceed high speed to join BIRMINGHAM. If nothing is sighted by 2230 forces are to search back to westward (C-in-C., HF, 1024/9 to FURY, BIRMINGHAM).
Despatch is necessary. FURY and destroyers raise steam for full speed and R.V. with MOHAWK off Switha. Release screen as soon as possible (C-in-C., H.F. 1038/9 to REPULSE, FURY, MOHAWK).
Your1003, expect to reach 56°17'N, 1°4'E at 1200. Fuel remaining at 1200 KELLY 44% KIMBERLEY 33% (Capt. D.5 1116/9). BIRMINGHAM 1200 DKWS 1445. HYPERION, JANUS, HEREWARD, HAVOCK in company (BIRMINGHAM 1122/9).

A/C's to be sent. Battle flight 3 Hudsons will join you 1330 (C-in-C., Rosyth 1126/9 to Capt. D. 20).
KANDAHAR, HOSTILE will be 50% fuel short when joining you at 1700 (KANDAHAR, 1130/9 to C.S.18)
Capt. D.20 with 3 destroyers and in daylight a battle flight of 3 Hudsons leave Buchan Ness at 1200/9 to pass through 55°18'N, 4°45'E, at about midnight then returning to Humber. (D.C.1131/9 to D.20. BIRMINGHAM, D.5).
Battle flight of 2 Hudsons will R.V. with you at 1400 and will be relieved at 1700 by battle flight of 3 Hudsons which will remain until dark (C-in-C., Rosyth 1316/9, to BIRMINGHAM).

War Diary 5.7.1940. Friday

FRENCH FLEET

General

My 2356/3 your 1400/5 and W.O. 75489 4/7 request clarification of action in the event of French warships passing through the Straits. (F.O.C.N.A. 2014/5 to Adty.)

Reply. Comply with para 3. of my 2005/4 (1st S.L. 0226/6)

The French appear to have established a submarine patrol Casablanca and two have been sighted by aircraft today: I instructed them not to attack. Another submarine was attacked by aircraft 230 Spartel 60. Aircraft reported probably French.

I intend for the present that no submarine unless obviously hostile shall be attacked within 70 miles radius of Casablanca (original French submarine zone). All submarines outside this zone unless escorted will be attacked. (F.O.C.N.A. 2232/5 to Adty.)

U.K.

DARTER P.L.E. 24

At Methil Breech blocks and machine guns removed and armed guards put on board (C. in C., Rosyth 0007/5)

Reference Adty. 2119/4 T/B's BOUCLIER, CORDELIERE, L'INCOMPRISE, BRAMBLEBAS LAMELPORTUS would be great value in the Nore Command for outer patrol work and to counter E-boats. (C. in C., Nore 1607/5 to Adty.)

Dakar

MILFORD To be sent to join patrol off Dakar as with her Asdics she can work closer inshore than other ships. (1st S.L. 0058/5 to C.inC., S.A.)

Your 2041/4 Para B of my 2312/3 is in abeyance until further orders. Shadow only. (1st S.L. 0155/5 to C. in C., S.A.)

Ships on patrol off Dakar are not to approach within 20 miles of French coast. (C. in C., S.A. 0723/5 to DORSETSHIRE, HERMES, AUSTRALIA, MILFORD)

/Your 0723/5.....

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Submarines.

Reports.

SEALION — reports 2 darkened ships closed in E. coast mine barrier night 2/4 both escaped owing to high speed. 7/4 in Kattegat. 16/4 attacked by a/c's 3 or 4 bombs exploded quite close no damage. (S3 0110/19).

SEAL — In collision 2348/8 with Estonian ss OTTO in dense fog 10 miles S.W. Naze, damage slight. Off Stavanger &c. q.v. (S2 1149/19).

Patrol positions — PORPOISE, CASABIANCA, ACHILLE, SFAX (R.A.(S) 1359/19).

AMAZONE (Capt.(S)10 2357/19).

Information — Landing of Allied troops in North Norway proceeding satisfactorily. It is of utmost importance that s/m's continue to do all they can to interrupt seaborne communications between Germany and Norway. Hoped that a raid by French destroyers into Skagerrak to destroy enemy A/S vessels will take place shortly (R.A.(S)1934/19 to s/m's on patrol).

positions — 0600/20 (D.C.2300/19).

Norwegian Naval Forces.

French MA reports 1230/18. Remaining serviceable escorts Norwegian Navy reorganised and are operating on W.N. coast Norway, composition unknown. Admiralty is with G.H.Q. under C.in C. (Norwegian H.Q. 2146/19).

Air.

Reports of enemy a/c's. GALATEA 0519/19, FLAMINGO shadowed (0723/19) CAIRO shadowed (CAIRO1306/19) REPULSE shadowed (1323/19) ASHANTI shadowed (1330/19) 2006/19).

War Diary

5.7.1940.
Friday

FRENCH FLEET

Dakar. Contd.

Your 0723/5. Do you intend this to apply during dark hours. (DORSETSHIRE 1305Z/5 to C. in C., S.A.)

I assume your 0058/5 does not cancel para 2 of your 2005/4 part 1 and have instructed MILFORD accordingly (C. in C., S.A. 1031/5 to Adty.)

RICHELIEU

Report whether RICHELIEU is still at Dakar (C. in C., S.A. 1947/5 to C. - G., Dakar)

Your 0723/5 (A) A report received from Tangier that RICHELIEU has sailed. When was she last sighted?
(B) Essential that aircraft from HEROES should keep RICHELIEU under observation and if flying is not possible some ship preferably MILFORD must endeavour to sight her morning and evening.
(C) MILFORD was ordered to Dakar to work at intervals further inshore that other ships (1st S.L. 1954/5 to C. in C., S.A.)

Adnty's 1954/5th July. RICHELIEU at Dakar with awning spread at 1700 Zone plus One today Friday 5th July. I have her under continual personal observation up to 0200 today. (DORSETSHIRE 2030Z/5 to C. in C., S.A.)

Adty. 1954/5 Answer paragraph (a). Comply with para (b). After arrival MILFORD is not to approach within 20x except to sight RICHELIEU morning and evening when flying cannot be carried out. (C. in C., S.A. 1935/5 to DORSETSHIRE)
x as received.

Casablanca

My 1546/4 Air reconnaissance p.m. today indicates probability that PRIMAUGUET has sailed. There are now only 8 submarines in port. (S.O. (1) Gib. 1804/5)

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

803 squadron to be embarked at Scapa as ordered in my 1413/16 (D.N.A.D. 1954/19, GLORIOUS 0049/20).

Air Searches for 20/4 (C.in C. Rosyth, 1938/19).

263 Squadron to be employed in Norway in support of operations, commencing in Trondheim theatre very shortly (Air Min.1930/19 to Fighter Command).

Firing at a/c's area. Extension of area of sea over which fighters and ships may fire at sight at night at a/c's burning navigation lights is to be extended southward and westward as far as 2° W. in English Channel from 2000/20.(Air Min.2004/19

Remarks of C.in C.,W.A.on MB.M/L.D.0223/40 of 5/4/40. Ref. Admiralty 2001/29/3.(C.inC.,W.A. 1754/18).

Rosyth A.A. defence. Asking for reinforcement of A.A. defences at Rosyth in view of concentration of shipping in Forth.(C.in C. Rosyth 1205/19). In view of urgent demands for A.A. defences for other urgent requirements regret defences of Rosyth cannot be reinforced at present (D.of L.D. 2017/19).

Mining.

Sweeping reports. Harwich, Yarmouth, curtailed by weather (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1920/19) Blyth, North Tyne curtailed by weather (F.O.I.C.Tyne 2027/19).

Shipping.

Convoys

HX 31 On time, favourable weather (D.T.D.1051/19)

HX 37 Advance sailing telegram (Canadian S.N.O., Halifax, 1526/18, recd. 0425/19).

OG 26 Sailing telegram (C.in C., W.A. 0924/19).

War Diary

5.7.1940.
Friday

FRENCH FLEET

Oran

A. Primary object of the attack on Mers El Kebir was destruction of the battle cruisers.

B. Unless you have sure evidence that the battle cruiser aground is so severely damaged that she cannot be refloated and repaired in under a year it is essential she be subjected to further destruction by bombardment. Air attack by 18" torpedoes alone is not considered adequate.

C. Hence unless you are convinced that the condition in B obtains you are to carry out a further operation against Mers El Kebir on 6/7.

D. It appears desirable Force H should sail just before dark and proceed to westward until dark then turn to eastward.

E. In view of submarine patrols take as many destroyers as possible.

F. If you are satisfied condition in B obtains then sail to-morrow Friday evening for Dakar to deal with RICHELIEU, leaving RESOLUTION at Gibraltar.

Further instructions follow regarding this operation. (1st S.L. 0056/5 to V.A. Force H)

Your 1650/4 and My 2056/4. Destroyers will consist of 6 of the 13th D.F. and 5 of E and F classes.

(i) Necessary to fuel V and W classes at sea anyhow and E and F classes as well unless force continues to Freetown after operation.

(iii) VALIANT and ARK ROYAL could provide sufficient fuel for all destroyers without calling at Freetown but oiling would take a considerable time and would only be possible from ARK ROYAL in very calm weather.

(iv) Provision of oiler desirable prferably between 020° and 035° N.

(v) A further oiler at Freetown is also desirable in case all destroyers cannot be oiled at sea and possibly to oil HOOD.

(vi) Would start passage at 14 knots increasing if oiling at sea proved practicable.

/(vii).....

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

NORSE KING — Norwegian, at Dublin, £1600 owing for harbour dues, etc. No money forthcoming from Oslo. (N.A., Dublin, 1325/19).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Submarine reports.

From Navy Office, Tromso-Times G.M.T.
1200 68° 55' N. 17° 40' E.
? 67° 30' N. 12° 30' E.
1850 67°(?) 41' N. 13° 5' E. steering westward. (FORTUNE 2330/19 to F.O.Narvik).

AUGUST LEONHARDT sunk 11/4 — 11/4 SEALION fired 2 torpedoes range 2700 yards at her, she sank quickly, 10 miles S. Anholt (S3 0110/19).

MOONSUND sunk 12/4 — SNAPPER attacked her unsuccessfully at dawn with 2 torpedoes, finally sinking her by gunfire, 6 out of 7 crew saved, 2 died later. (S3 1727/19).

German landings Oslo. — Norwegian G.S. states Germans landing troops Oslo, Drombak, Skeiberg all in Oslo Fiord also AFVS, Norwegians have only infantry to oppose (CAIRO) 1339/19).

Main Units. — No reliable reports of German main units since 12/4 but probable all large warships are now in home waters. Aircraft carrier "B" was located in advanced state of construction at Kiel 7/4. GRAF ZEPPELIN believed to be still undergoing trials.(D.D.I.C.1701/19 to A 1945).

Minelaying. — Early on 19/4, a German force of about 12 vessels consisting of destroyers, M.T.B.'s, and trawlers, was reported operating in outer Hardanger Fiord, possibly minelaying (I.C.0426/40).

Ex-Danish ships. — Report (B.2) that the Germans have taken over from Denmark 11 torpedo boats, 4 submarines and other auxiliary vessels.

War Diary

5.7.1940.
Friday.

FRENCH FLEET

Orgn- Contd.

(vii) In the event of bad weather it may be necessary to send back V and W classes after passing Canary Is. (V.A.H. 0015/5 to Adty)

My 0056/5 and your 2240/4 Operation against DUNKERQUE is to be carried out (1st. S.L. 0202/5)

Regret that repugnance I felt at causing heavy French casualties induced me to delay bombardment and to cut it short at first excuse. This delay capsized ARK ROYAL programme and prevented synchronization of air attack. Of this I was not aware at the time, but I see clearly that I should have ordered VALIANT and RESOLUTION to continue bombardment while I was chasing STRASBOURG.

I think there is good reason to believe STRASBOURG may have been seriously damaged and I will do my utmost to dispose of DUNKERQUE tomorrow. (F.O. Force H. 1000/5 to Adty.)

Your 0202/5 Intend using HOOD, VALIANT, ARK ROYAL, ARETHUSA, ENTERPRISE and 10 destroyers for operation commencing to-day as in (d) of your 0056/5. Expect to commence bombardment about 0900/6 which is earliest time force can arrive if feint to (?) sail is undertaken as I consider desirable. Further earlier arrival probably not advantageous in view of poor morning visibility (V.A. Force H. 1329/5 to Adty.)

Re destruction of DUNKERQUE, consider question of warning so as to avoid loss of life, remembering Gensoul's last signal to you 3/7 as to ships hors de combat and evacuation of men.

D. Consider whether it is possible to attempt agreement to allow you to destroy ship by explosives instead of gunfire, thus saving loss of life.

C. The above are subject to their not necessitating your heavy ships hanging about in submarine waters. (1st S.L. 1721/5 to F.O. Force H.)

Cruiser sunk by PANDORA

Have sunk one Cruiser French Cruiser La GALISSONNIERE Class in position 036° 53' or 56 North 003° 17' East. Have been bombed and depth charged, undamaged. (PANDORA 1540Z/5)

/Were you.....

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Ex-Norwegian ships. Norwegian torpedo boat LAKS at Trondheim is reported to be now in German hands, and the torpedo boats SILD and SKARV may also be German (I.C.0426/40).

Cargo ship. About 1500-2000 tons from Bergen to Germany will leave Bjoernefiorden over Slettoe about 0300/19. (Portishead Radio 0236/19).

Cruiser &c. German cruiser, 1 destroyer, 1 s/m, 1 M.T.B. in Lervik on Stoetboen harbour (Portishead Radio THI 1056/19)(40 miles S. of Bergen) air reconnaissance arranged (D.C.0252/20) (I.C.0426/40).

German naval forces in Norway. B2. on 18/4 there were 3 transports and 8 light warships 2 miles E. Frederickshaven, 1 transport, 3 destroyers 3 miles N.N.E. Hirsholm steaming N.N.E. Many minesweepers working in Kattegat and Skagerrak. 1 destroyer WOLF class ashore outside Frederickshaven. Several empty transports returning from Oslo. Oslo 17/4 LEIPZIG and BRUMMER query, one MAAS, 3 MOWE, 6 Vedette boats, 2 minesweepers Kristiansand probably few destroyers. Bergen no large, several small destroyers (D.D.I.C. 1707/19 to V.A.(S).

SCHEER Seems possible ADMIRAL SCHEER is still at Frederickshaven. If so, might be possible to finish her off by another torpedo attack. Request air reconnaissance to confirm her position (V.A.S. 1858/19 to Admiralty). Considered SCHEER is now in a German home port (D.C.2341/19 to V.A.S.).

Transports. Troop concentration and transport with 2 destroyers reliably reported at Fredericks-haven also troop concentrations at Helsingor 0236/19. 6 merchant ships at anchor LKND 1920 at 1300 (R.A.(S) 2004/19 to s/m's on patrol).

Warship resembling German tender TSINGTAU accompanied by trawler northbound in JSGD 1848 58° 18' N., 10° 48' E., (16 m. N. of Skaw) at 0530/19 (TRIAD 2131/19)(I.C.0426/40)

War Diary

5.7.1940.
Friday.

FRENCH FLEET

Oran-Contd.

Were you bombed before or after you sank French Cruiser. (1st S.L. 0010/6 to PANDORA)

Bombing started 2 hours after Cruiser was torpedoed. (PANDORA 0016/6)

Order to PROTEUS

Proceed patrol of Cape Khamis 36° 20' N 0° 40'E. Force H will operate off Oran from westward 6/7. Acknowledge only to V.A. Force H. and F.O. i/c Malta (V.A. Force H. 1734/5 to PROTEUS)

Your 1400 and intended operation in my 1329. I suggest if further loss of French lives occurs this will provoke France to far more active measures against British ships. To give prior intention of bombarding would probably result in damage (? to) our ships.

Evidence of observer is ship hit extent of damage cannot be determined.

Unless air and submarine forces have been specially detailed to protect damaged ship, other French dispositions suggest they have no immediate intention of moving ships. Situation in Western Mediterranean will be difficult if we have to deal with fully hostile French naval forces. As French now see that we are in earnest, can compromise be promised re demilitarisation of ships to avoid further loss of French lives. From observers reports casualties 3/7 exceedingly heavy.

From latest photographs, ship is now lying within 400 yards of Sainte Andre and very considerable loss of life and damage to property ashore will be caused by further bombardment (V.A.H. 1750/5 1800/5 to Adty.)

Air reconnaissance of Oran 1320 5th July. One LYNX anchored off entrance of Oran. One DUNKERQUE one PANTAS UE both ashore on even keel former pointing 295° in original position where she went aground latter N.E. inner corner of seaward breakwater Mers El Kebir bow North. (S.O. (1) Gib. 2106/5 to Adty)

Force H less RESOLUTION left 2000 (S.O. (1) Gib. 2145/5)

/RICHELIEU.....

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Suspicious lights seen 2311/19 approx. 57° 40' N. 7° 0' E. - 57° 45' N. 7° 23' E. (H.Q.B.C.2345/19).

Weather.

0500 POST/19/4.

N. Sea North	Wind E. or N.E. moderate.	Good or moderate.	Similar in North, wind becoming S.W. or S. and moderating in South.
South	Variable, strong to gale.		
Channel W.	moderate or fresh.	Good or moderate.	Wind backing South.
W. Approaches.S.	Light	Very good.	Wind backing S.E. Visibility deteriorating.
Horns Reef.S.	Fresh or strong.	Moderate or poor.	Wind veering S.W. Visibility improving.
Norwegian coast.	Main N.E.moderate but variable light in S.W. corner.	Good.	Mainly similar. Wind freshening visibility deteriorating in extreme South.

War Diary

5.7.1940.
Friday

FRENCH FLEET

Cypher Contd.

RICHELIEU

Your 1731/5. Highly improbable French will received delagates or consider such proposition at present. If warning given prior to bombardment this will inevitably provoke full scale air and submarine opposition. Suggest French be warned that unless steps taken by them to destroy ship we reserve right to effect destruction ourselves and any loss of life or property their responsibility.
Early reply desired as if operation postponed force H should return Gibraltar daylight (V.A.H. 2209/5 to Adty.)

Orders to PROTEUS PANDORA

Be prepared for attack by French but do not fire first shot. (N.A. Station 2316/5 to PROTEUS, PANDORA)

My 2015/4. Situation report. (corrupt group) de oiling is practically complete. Obturators and warheads pistols landed today and placed in custody of French C.G. in presence of Officer from Fleet and B.C.G. Reservists embarking in PROVIDENCE. No move yet re active service ratings as Godfrey states still awaiting confirmation that arrangements made for reception in France.

2. I intend to use alternative B 1 (See Adty. 2100/1, i.e. offer of guarantee that French ships will not be seized unless Italy or Germany break armistice terms) as means expediting a departure of crews and also to try and get undertaking that ships will not be sunk at moorings. Danger of this, sooner or later particularly if situation between ourselves and France deteriorates. (C. in C., Med. 2303/5 to Adty.)

Mombasa

CARAIBE

is returning to Mombasa with KENT. Force was not required. Due Mombasa a.m./6 (C. in C., E.I. 06267/5)

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

A/S Patrol of Straits. Re. report from Rome that Italian spies have left for Germany an intensive A/S patrol of Straits of Gib. is to be established forthwith. Italian s/m's should be sunk if submerged or on surface if without escort, both on high seas and in Spanish territorial waters. Under our agreement with Italy her s/m's have no right to be on surface outside the excercise area unless accompanied by a surface ship. (D.C.N.S.1650/19 to F.O.C.N.A)

Ocean convoys. Situation 2000/19 (C.in C., W.A.,1407/19).

South Atlantic.

Norwegian ships. Committee established at Min. of Shipping, London to control movements.(C.in C., S.A. 1241/19).

Whale factory ships sailing Monday from Rio de Janeiro to Trinidad. Advised to disregard numerous instructions from Oslo. (A.N.A. Rio, 1649/19).

Mediterranean.

My 1138/18 (personal circulation), last para. no action required until N.A.'s proposals have been considered in London (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C., Med., 0121/19).

1st S/M. Flotilla. Disposition (C.in C., Med., 1313/19).

CLAN RANALD sabotage. Enquiry into fire on board at Suez 16/2 suggests sabotage. Ship loaded Liverpool and storage cargo is open to suspicion (C.in C., Med., 1917/19).

Suspicious S/m. Pilot of F/B CASSIOPA report 1 s/m 200 miles 315° Alexandria at 0900/19, crash dived on sighting aircraft. 1 cruiser 2 funnels off Malesa, south of Corfu at 1200/19 (Imperial Airways Agents, Poole, D.O.D.).

War Diary

5.7.1940.
Friday

FRENCH FLEET

West Indies

FIMI reports in his opinion Admiral Martinique wishes to avoid fighting at any rate for the present. This appears borne out by your 1230/5, with a view to clarifying situation and making it possible to withdrew one or more of my ships propose addressing Admiral Martinique as follows begin. In order to avoid use of force which would be most deplorable I ask you to give me your personal guarantee that your ships will remain in harbour. End. (C. in C.,A.W.I. 1131/5 to Adty.)

Aruba reports believe Captain Gerolt MESTEREL intends to obey orders of Petain Government. Near Oil Refineries will be shelled and damaged as much as possible before surrender to a man of war. French Military Officers very friendly express opinion that Mediterranean action understandable. (S.O. (1) Kingston, 1550/5 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Your 1131/5 would be an admission to the French of our intention to attack French ships wherever met, which is undesirable at the present time hence action proposed is not repeat not to be taken. (1st S.L. 2246/5 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Troop convoy. TC 3. — Your 1739/18. Montreal satisfactory except from Naval point of view. R.C.N. can only protect transports sailing from Halifax. Information of troops sailing from St. Lawrence River Ports will immediately reach U.S.A. and convoy cannot be evasively routed until after passing Cabot Straits 36-48 hours after sailing. (C.N.S. Ottawa 1116/19).

Norwegian ships. — Requiring insurance (N.C.S.O. Trinidad, 1800/19).

Danish Ships. — Admiralty 1416/18. Danish Shipping Committee, New York, under authority of Danish Ambassador Committee, has taken charge of all Danish ships in U.S.A. Suggest negotiations be undertaken direct with this Committee. (C.N.S. Ottawa 1014/19).

Position is fully realised. Attempts being made to negotiate (Hd. of M. 1207/20).

East Indies.

S.O. Red Sea Force. — Your 1204/13. Approved for F.O.C.14 CS to transfer flag to LIVERPOOL for duty as S.O. Red Sea Force (1st S.L. 2324/19).

Norwegian ships. — Your 1143/18. Before sailing with armed guards those ships remaining at Calcutta suggest awaiting my 0725/19 which is an extract from Admiralty 1416/18.(C.in C.E.I 1125Z/19 to F.O.C.R.I.N.).

Australia.

US 2 — Probably leaving Freemantle pm/22/4. French cruiser SUFFREN to relieve H.M.A.S.SYDNEY (Aust. M.B., 0030Z/19, 0120Z/19).

SYDNEY — To be relieved by SUFFREN near Cocos I., to proceed to Freemantle as ocean escort US 3 to Suez or Aden (A.C.N.D.0030Z/19).

War Diary. 6.7.40.
Saturday.

DEFENCE OF U.K.

Use to be made of Naval personnel, particularly personnel under training in event of area being temporarily invested by enemy. (Hd. of M. 1514/6.)

Use of Destroyers. Though a change in dispositions at this moment may not be acceptable, point for consideration is that S-class destroyers with no torpedoes and only old 4-in. gun are not now really destroyers but submarine hunters, and therefore a redistribution to use S class against submarines and heavier armed vessels for anti-invasion would make better use of our available potentials. (C.in C., Portsmouth, 1123/6).

Independent Shipping Restriction. Virtually impossible for destroyer patrols at night readily to identify merchant shipping proceeding independently on east coast. As enemy probably knows routes and time tables of convoys, may take advantage of this by following up or proceeding a convoy with a group of merchant vessels filled with troops. Propose therefore that (a) No ships are to be sailed out of convoy. (b) Ships joining convoys from intermediate ports who fail to rendezvous are to return to the ports whence they sailed and await next convoy. (C.in C., Nore, 1117/6.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

If suspicious vessels are seen in Eire territorial waters H.M.Ships and aircraft may enter to investigate. Enemy warships and aircraft of every description (including transports and troop carrying craft) may be attacked whenever found in Eire territorial waters. (Hd. of M. 1918/6).

Movements

IMOGEN Admiralty 2255/5, IMOGEN from Scapa 1015/6 expected time of arrival Clyde 1230/7 (R.A.(D) H.F. 1020/6).

S/m's. Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/7.
TRIAD TAKU vicinity Pro Havet.
TETRARCH Q S M F 4530
SUNFISH Q S M F 0830
TRIBUNE X Z M F 5555.
PORPOISE X Z M F 2855
SEALION X Z U B
SEAWOLF C. One.
SALMON J Z U B 2000.
SHARK may arrive Rosyth a.m.from North East.
NARWHAL T G S C 4015 proceeding on surface to Blyth.
SPEARFISH A. 5.
STURGEON SWORDFISH H. One and 2.
H. 28 C P S C 5352.
H. 50 arriving Harwich a.m. from Gap E.

German Ships Sunk at Narvik.

From N.I.C. Daily Report, 25.4.1940, (I.C., 0431/40).

It is considered that the following ships, which were at Narvik on 8th April, have probably all been sunk:--

1	AACHEN	6270 G.T.
24	ALTONA	5392 G.T.
83	BOCKENHEIM	4900 G.T.
223	FRIEDLINGHAUS	4339 G.T.
288	HEIN HOYER	5836 G.T.
336	JAN WILLEM	11776 G.T.
476	NEUKIRCHEN	8096 G.T.
435	MARTHA HENDRIK FISSER	4879 G.T.

Total ... .. 51468 gross tons.

The following information has been received in the last 24 hours:-

SEATTLE, 7369 G.T. (left Curacao 4/3, arrived Tromso 31/3, sailed from Haugesund 7/4). Lloyds report information from Rotterdam that the owners (H.A.L.) report that the vessel has been totally lost, ship and cargo, off coast of Norway. (Note - loss probably occurred in Skagerrak 8th April).

War Diary

6.7.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines (Contd.)

H. 44 leaves Lowestoft 1000 escorted for Harwich
H. 49 patrolling Dover Strait 0100 to 0800.
(V.A.S. 1812/6)

Operations

Search for SHARK

Note SHARK reported 2250/5 unable to dive.

Send 4 destroyers to escort SHARK. Air escort may be expected. (C. in C., H.F. 0025/6 to R.A. (d) H.F.

SHARK reports at 2250/5 that she is unable to dive. Position 58:51 N. 4:5? E. course 230 degrees 10 knots. COSSACK MAORI, FAME and FORTUNE are proceeding to escort SHARK. Take COVENTRY under your orders and proceed when ready to their support. Air escort is to be expected. Keep a W/T guard on 4740 Kcs. Destroyers will also do so. SHARK has been so informed but only cypher held is "O". (C. in C., H.F. 0045/6 to R.A.18).

H.M. Ships COSSACK MAORI FAME and FORTUNE are to proceed as soon as ready to escort H.M.S. SHARK to Rosyth. H.M.S. SHARK is unable to dive and position course and speed at 2250 Friday 5th July was 58:51 N. 4:50 E. course 230° 10 knots. Air escort may be expected. Keep wireless guard on 4740 kcs. in addition to station wireless organisation. Acknowledge. (R.A.(D) H.F. 0055/6 to Capt. D (4).)

Four destroyers under Capt. (D)4, should reach you about 0900. H.M.S. SOUTHAMPTON and H.M.S. COVENTRY will be in support. All ships sailing from Scapa Flow. Three Blenheims should reach you about 0330. (R.A.(S) 0107/6 to SHARK).

Expect air escort of 3 Blenheims about 0330
(C. in C. Rosyth 0128/6 to SHARK).

My 0558/6 to R.A. 18 C.S. and Capt. D.4. Blenheims have returned without seeing SHARK. A further flight from Sumburgh will endeavour R.V. with you in approx. position 57:48 N. 2:0 E. at 0900 and assist you to locate her. Aircraft informed generally your movements. (C. in C., Rosyth 0742/6 to Capt. D(4).

War Diary

6.7.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Search for SHARK (Contd.)

Shadowed by 2 aircraft in 57:43 N., 2:20 E. (D.4 0853/6).

Report your position course speed (V.A.(S) 1009/6 to SHARK).

Expect 1 Hudson about 1130 ordered to assist in search (C. in C., Rosyth 1104/6 to Capt. D.4, R.A.18).

Bombed at 58:5 N. 2:12 E. (FAME 1130/6).

1 aircraft 58:3 N. 1:22 E. (SOUTHAMPTON 1124/6).

Shadowed by 2 enemy aircraft in 28GPCSC 18 (SOUTHAMPTON 1136/6).

Destroyers expect to concentrate in positions 57:17 N. 1:18 E. at 1415. An area of 25 miles on each side of a line drawn 75 miles 050° from this position will then have been searched. (Capt. D.4 1210/6 to R.A.18, C. in C., Rosyth).

Bombed 239 58:0 N. 2:0 E. 17 (SOUTHAMPTON 1243/6).

Continuously attacked COVENTRY, MAORI, FAME in company 226° 58:0 N. 2:0 E. 25 (S.O. 18 C.S. 1308/6).

Expect 3 Hudsons about 1430 to assist in search (C. in C., Rosyth 1324/6 to R.A. 18).

Continuously bombed no hits. (Capt. 4 1357/6).

FAME damaged aft, speed reduced 20 knots. My position, course and speed 322° 230° 18 knots escorting FAME to Rosyth 57:0 N. 1:0 E. R.A.(D) H.F. joining me. (S.O. 18 C.S. 1336/6).

INOGEN

Return with your forces to Scapa (C. in C., H.F. 1349/6 to S.O. 18 C.S., Capt. (D)4).

Enemy aircraft bombing 350 57:0 N. 1:0 E. 20 (SOUTHAMPTON 1442/6).

Enemy aircraft bombing 332 57:0 N. 1:0 E. 18 (S.O. 18 C.S. 1501/6).

Cancel my 1349/6. Proceed in accordance with your 1336/6 (C. in C. H.F. 1503/6 to S.O. 18 C.S.)

EPT DYOEX

Enemy aircraft bombing 290 57:0 N. 0:0 1 mile (S.O. 18 C.S. 1640/6).

Bombed, no hits 018° 57:0 N., 2:0 E. 22 miles (Capt D.4 1246/6).

War Diary

6.7.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

IMOGEN Adty. 2255/5

War Diary

6.7.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Search for SHARK (Contd.)

Aircraft J. 269 reports at 1230 contacted 4 destroyers 2 cruisers in position 58:51 N., 1:58 E., 248, 30 knots. Commenced search for submarine. At 1300 observed dr. and cr. being heavily bombed, no direct hits or near misses were observed. Continued search for submarine, and at 1427 sighted and investigated large patch of oil, 57:06 N. 00:18 E. At 1500 while heading N. to rejoin destroyers sighted M.E.110 position 57:40 N., 00:36 E turned to attack but we escaped into cloud. Further search, no trace observed apart from patch of oil reported above. (Donibristle, 1625/6).

SNAPPER

SNAPPER reports. At 1438/25/6 in Approaches to Skudesnes fired 3 torpedoes at convoy of 4 ships between 1000 tons and 3000 tons escorted by one trawler and aircraft screen. 2 explosions heard one minute eight seconds and one minute eleven seconds after firing. A third explosion heard ten minutes eleven seconds after firing. Convoy then returned to Skudesnes in disorder. 3 torpedoes fired at 1445 at ship believed to be stopped, one explosion was heard about eleven minutes after firing. 29/6 at 0030 bombed by aircraft in position 58:04 N. 05:44 E. Eight A/S bombs dropped, only minor damage sustained.

2033/1 in 57:59 N. 5:45 E. attacked by Fighter Patrol of 2 M.E. 109. At 1553 in 58:09 N. 05:24 E. large northbound tanker sighted, disappeared in rain squall. Visibility cleared shortly afterwards and convoy of 12 merchant vessels in 2 columns escorted by trawlers and aircraft was sighted steering mean course of 160°. Attacked with 6 torpedoes browning shot. Convoy presented solid target. Range of nearest ship on firing 1600 yards, first torpedo fired on track 135 and firing interval 12 seconds, remainder with swing towards Head of Convoy. First explosion heard after two minutes twenty seven seconds, second seven minutes seventeen seconds, third seven minutes thirty five seconds. Three further explosions within about eight seconds of each other after eleven minutes. Depth charged and bombed after attack, only damage leak on deck tube. (S.3 0055/6).

War Diary

6.7.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

IMOGEN Adty. 2255/5

War Diary

6.7.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Boulogne — M.T.Bs 69 and 70 ordered to attack 3 M.Vs in Boulogne Outer Harbour tonight 6/7. M.T.B. 71 and Norwegian 5 and 6 in support. (V.A. Dover 2201/6 to Adty.)

Shipping

Leave convoy as soon as 2 or more destroyers have joined (C. in C., W.A. 1346/6 to ALAUNIA)

FN 14 — Ships in FN 14 for Tyne proceed into Tyne on arrival and not to anchor outside (C. in C. Rosyth 1502/6 to VEGA, WINCHESTER, HIBISCUS).

Channel Coastal Convoys — Routes. (D.T.D. 0042/6).

War Diary

6.7.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

IMOGEN Adty. 2255/5

War Diary

6.7.1940.
Saturday.

HOME WATERS

Enemy Air Activity

Attack on 18th C.S. and 4th D.F.

See Operations.

Falmouth

One aircraft bombing (WESTCOTT 0715/6)

CAROLINE MOLLER

Attacked 1441 G.M.T. 50° 29' N., 0° 35'W (CAROLINE MOLLER 1442/6)

WALTER PRINCE

Attacked 10 miles S.E. St. Mary's Scillys (Cleethorpes W/T, 1509/6)

NORMAN

Tug NORMAN bombed 50° 40' N., 0° 45'W (Niton Radio, 1444/6)

Large number of aircraft, course 090°, 230° N.Foreland 24' (FIREFLY 2250/6)

Mining

Operation A.W. Part 2.

If attacked help message will be made by PLOVER on 280 kcs Code Word OLIVE (C. in C., Nore 0744/6 to Adty.) D 20 1621/4 D.20 reports PLOVER and VAN DER ZAAN sail 1200/6 from Immingham for operation A.W. Part 2. (D.C. 0647/6)

Midnight said 5/6 July. 8 aircraft were high minelaying not suspected in this area. (F.O.Humber 0800/6)

The Tyne, Hartlepool, Middlesborough and Tees are closed; and Blyth is restricted. (I.C. 0504/40)

SEA KING reports sweep cut and slight explosion in 53°21' N., 1°1'E (F.O. Humber to DUNDALK)

Blyth Inshore Channel closed. (C. in C., Rosyth 1802/6)

War Diary

28.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norwegian H.Q. Reports

Troops in good heart, but urgent need of Artillery support, of which at present I have none. General Ruge has withdrawn all Norwegian troops from my front for rest and reorganisation except ski detachment. (Norwegian H.Q., 0800/28).

Submarine Reports

SWORDFISH — Patrol report 18th to 26th. Large numbers of probable troop carrying aircraft crossing Skagerrak. Bombed and depth-charged. Small leak in Z tank. (SWORDFISH, 1238/28).

Troop Convoys, etc.

F.P.2 — Should be disembarking Narvik area today. (D.C., 0921/28).

T.M.1 — Details. 65 further misses on convoy today. (D.4, 1601/28).

War Diary

6.7.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Suspicious Ships

Following vessels observed proceeding down French Coast, one destroyer, two large vessels, three small vessels, all bearing 160 to 170 degs. Please investigate. (V.A. Dover, to A.O.C. 16 Group, 1349/6)

5 M/S 1 coastal M/V, 1 M/S sighted 53°08'N., 4° 45'E., at 1215/6, speed 8 knots, reported by aircraft K/235 (Chatham, 1349/6)

Kiel

Kiel commercial port, Germania Shipbuilding yards. Photographs taken 3/7 show one K class cruiser and one HIPPER class cruiser lying alongside quay immediately south of building slips. In building slips two submarines, a third in floating dock. In large floating dock to south of Nos. 5 and 6 graving docks, SCHARNHORST; in No 6 docking, pocket battleship; one submarine in small floating dock of Deutsche Werke. In slipway alongside these works probably a cruiser under construction approx. 550 ft long, thought may be of H.N.O. class. In old torpedo boat harbour, aircraft carrier B under construction, at entrance to inner harbour one vessel believed to be a torpedo boat of WOLF or MOWE class. In No 2 graving dock of construction basin, one HAAS class destroyer. In Howaldts shipyard two vessels, approx. 400 ft long, thought to be naval auxiliaries. No large concentration of merchant shipping. Damage to HIPPER class cruiser and pocket battleship. Damage to yard buildings. Whole harbour area from south end to a point at least one mile north of Balon Laboe, distance of 8 miles, is covered with oil. (Bomber Command Intelligence Summary 284, recd. 1029/6)

4 Destroyers 2 M/V's bearing 040° 10' course 138° from 61° 58'N., 2° 18'E (aircraft 201 Sqdn. 2048/6)

Maas

About 40 barges between Rotterdam and Isselmonde (THI 2040/6)

Ijselscher Canal

About 45 Barges moored at locks about 9' N.W of Ameloe (T.H.I. 2040/6)

Helicoland

Eight small vessels with bright white lights 1° West of Heligoland at 0106/6 (THI 2040/6)

Mardyck-Calais Canal

About 30 Barges observed at 1430/6 (HQBCOS02/7)

0621/6

6 M/V's in Stavanger Area A/C report (I.C. 0504/40)

1215/6

6 Motor Minesweepers, course 030° 3' West of Texal. A/c report.

War Diary

28.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aandalsnes, Aalesund, Molde

Norwegian Shipping — Your 1240/26. Ships should be sailed for U.K. as soon as possible, sailing at dusk and proceeding at maximum speed to Kirkwall, passing West of Shetlands. (D.T.D. to N.O.I.C. Aandalsnes, 0249/28).

Unloading Facilities — Not more than one store or M.T. ship can be dealt with at a time at Aandalsnes. Pier at present undamaged but crane permanently out of action. Unloading limited to 5 or 6 hours daily and small craft from Molde to assist in discharging are few and getting fewer owing to unhampered enemy bombing from 0800 to 1800 daily. (C.S.O., Aandalsnes, 2045/28).

Aerodromes — Site South Farstad rough stony, would require 3 month's preparation with heavy plant. Site 550 by 100 at Sylte will be ready 3 weeks Gladiator Sqdn. Could Spitfires be put on floats this would solve all difficulties here. 40 tons fuel, 108 cases of oil destroyed by bombs. Please send more. Skua destroyed Heinkel S.W. Vestlyes yesterday 27/4. Skua destroyed enemy aircraft today Bud. (Sq. Leader, 1700/28).

CAPE SIRETOKO — Sunk, 1 officer wounded.

WISTERIA — Ashore, 8 wounded.

Both of 11th A.S.S.F., as result of bombing and machine gunning. Former accounted for one aircraft. (N.O.I.C. Aandalsnes, 1715/28).

War Diary

0500

6.7.1940.
Saturday.

WEATHER

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	S. or S.E. Light or Moderate.	Moderate or Good. Poor locally with fog patches.	Wind Variable
Channel & Western Approaches	S.W. or W. Light or Moderate	Good or very good.	Similar
Horns Reef Dutch Coast	S.E. Light	Moderate or Good	Wind variable
S.W. Norwegian Coast	S.W. Light	Moderate or Good	Wind backing.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

RAMB

See Operations

SEALION

Slight Defect (SEALION C215/6)

BROKEN

Rammed by Turkish YUSBASI H.MCI. Now badly damaged and holed in cabin aft. Escorting Tug to Falmouth 5 knots. (BROKEN 0054/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

YUSBASI H.MCI

Ship sunk subsequently.

War Diary

28.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British Air Activity

Objections for tonight:

Stavanger, Aaborg, Fornebu light scale of attack.
All Hampden Squadrons should now be equipped for bombing operations, but if you still consider it practicable to plant 4 lettuces during the next 48 hours required aircraft may remain fitted to carry out this operation (Air Min. 1140/28).

Work of F.A.A.

Skuas have again done magnificent work. They have today shot down 4 Heinkels and damaged 5 other bombers. 2 Skuas were lost but crew of one is safe. Heinkels were bombing our ships and Aandalsnes in waves of 3 and at one time 15 were seen. (U.K. (A), 0603/28).

Reserve Fighters

All available reserve fleet fighters to be sent to Hatston by am/29th, to embark in GLORIOUS as casualty replacements are required by C. in C., H.F., also sufficient reserve flying personnel to man these aircraft as far as available. (D.N.A.D., 1747/28).

Carrier Support

Essential that meximum effort from carriers should be available during priod of operation referred to in my 0339/28 (V.C.N.S. to C. in C., H.F. 1555/28).

GLORIOUS
Aircraft combats

803 Sqdn., 6 Skuas, engaged 2 Heinkel III and 1 Dornier 17, 1830 to 1900/24/4. 1 Heinkel III seen to crash, another hit several times and seen to dive away.

803 Sqdn. 3 Skuas, engaged 3 Heinkels III in one combat, one Heinkel III in second combat, B.O.D. to 1430/26/4. One seen to crash in Storf-Jorden Fiord, between Aalesund and Aandalsnes. Other successful combats by 803 known to have taken place, but pilots are now in ARK ROYAL and reports not available.

802 and 804 Sqdns. 4 Gladiators engaged 1 Heinkel 111 K, approx. 63:45 N., 3:10 E., several hits. No apparent damage but driven off. (GLORIOUS 1400/28).

War Diary

6.7.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Flying Boat — My 2354/4 One Sunderland now serviceable. (F.O.C.N.A., 0046/6)

French Ship — COMPIEGNE has asked for 600 tons bunkers. Request policy with regard to French ships a and instructions for COMPIEGNE, whose Captain says he cannot give a destination. (N.C.S.O., Lisbon, 1149/6)

Troop Ships — Admty. 2039/5, re FABIAN and JOHN HOLT to enter Lisbon for food and water. Portuguese authorities have no objection provided stay limited to 24 hours. Arrangements made. (N.A., Lisbon, 1444/6)

Necessary arrangements made. Inform masters stay is limited to 24 hours. Report Admiralty expected time of arrival and estimate of requirements. (D.O.D. (F) to ENCHANTRESS, 1732/6)

Gibraltar Air Raid — French Radio reports that according to communique of French Admiralty 2 squadrons of French naval aircraft attacked Gibraltar. Several hits have been observed on British warships at anchorage in the port. (Doran in Hungarian, 2230/6)

No sign of Mines — V.A. Force H. 1005/5. Whole of searched Channel was swept after air raid a.m. 5/7 without result. Several bombs fell in sea but there was no evidence of parachute mines having been dropped. (F.O.C.N.A., 1822/6)

Situation — Situation report. One aircraft approached Gibraltar at 0715 but flew off into clouds on gunfire being opened on it. No further incidents. (Governor 2037/6)

French North Africa — Your 1254/5. The necessary broadcasts in French have been arranged. M. of I are cabling to you text for a pamphlet to be printed Gibraltar for distribution as decided by you. (D.P.D., to F.O.C.N.A., 1717/6)

Convoy — VOLUNTEER to remain with convoy as long as fuel permits, then instruct ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ULSTER MONARCH to proceed to Casablanca, arriving 0600 G.M.T. 8/7. BALOMARES to remain with VOLUNTEER and to be escorted to Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.A. 1653/6)

/Repetition.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

War Diary

6.7.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Convoy. Contd.	Repetition of my 2018/5 (recd. 0725/6, but undecypherable). My 2016, part 2. Acknowledge immediately and communicate Admiral, Afrique's reply as soon as it can be obtained, T.O.O., 1614/5 (ends) ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ULSTER MONARCH have been ordered not to approach within 30 miles of French or French Colonial Coast until further instruction (F.O.C.N.A. 1600/6)
FABIAN JOHN HOLT	Admty. 1732/6. Time of arrival at Lisbon, and ships requirements. (MECHANITRESS, 2126/6)

FOREIGN STATIONS

War Diary

6.7.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

MESSRS

Asking when she will require to leave Dakar area for refuelling. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1735/6)

Volunteers

HIGHLAND MONARCH, left Santos for U.K. via St. Vincent, C.V., 4/7, has 50 British volunteers from River Plate. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1134/6)

A.M.C's

My 1127/3 and your 1349/3 A.M.C's requiring water or fuel should proceed to Clyde. F.O.I.C. Greenock should be informed when vessels may be expected and when they are next required at Freetown. (D.D.O.D., (F) to C. in C., S.A. 1932/6)

Routes

It is reported that ships from Liverpool and Milford Haven are being routed in to Durban by searched channels in force prior to amendment in accordance with S.O.A. 26 and 27. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1145/6)

DRAGON
BULOLO

In view of present sistuation it seems desirable to proceed to Duala. Propose move there to-morrow 7/7. BULOLO sails 0600/7. Expect arrive Lagos 1300, 8/7. Times zone minus one. (DRAGON, 1235/6) Your 1235/6 approved. (C. in C., S.A. 2107/6

GALLIC STAR
Detained

Following from British Consul, Antananarive: GALLIC STAR detained at Majunga by order of naval authorities. Governor General, in agreement with naval authorities, amiably proposes to release ship and cargo on condition that French ship BERNARDIN DE ST. PIERRE is similarly released from Cape Town in order to continue voyage to Madagascar. 1200/6 (ends) Message communicated to Union authorities. Request instructions. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1703/6)

War Diary. 28.4.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Morale. Experience indicates morale of German Air Force is very low. In no single instance have the very superior numbers of German a/cs. stood up to attacks by Skuas. Examples. (V.A.(A) 1843/28).

Information from Norwegian Intelligence :-

Bergen. (1) 2 destroyers, 1 camouflaged with sand and trees on deck, in position south-east of naval barracks. Other destroyer in dry dock also camouflaged. 1 ammunition ship.

(2) Oil tanks at Vlorevaag on island opposite Bergen.

(3) 2 U-Boats charging batteries nightly at eastern end of Island of Blomo, 30 kilometres north-west Bergen.

(4) Radio station at Hejle, opposite barracks.

Lonne Fiord. 2 Norwegian destroyers, 1 motor torpedo boat.

Gudvangen. Strong German force entered 27/4, Norwegians retreating eastwards. (A.2).

Stavanger. Aerodromes, 1 on racecourse, and 1 under construction at Opstad. (B.2).

(N.O.I.C., Aandalanes 1725/28).

German Transports. Swedish observers report 120, gross tonnage about 500,000 tons, between 8/4 and 26/4 towards Oslo. For same destinations, 3 transports, about 30,000 tons total, but without troops on board, reported on 26/4. No large ship on front line of shipyards at Kiel on 25/4 sighted by Swedish Naval Attache. Present position of PRINZ EUGEN unknown. (French Naval Mission, from French N.A. at Stockholm, to O.I.C. Admty. recd. 1520/28).

War Diary

6.7.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- Operations

Operation — Operation in Central Mediterranean (C. in C., Med., 1059/6) Operation M.A.5. Forces employed, (C. in C., Med., 1103/6) Orders to units. (C. in C., Med. 1059/6 1105/6, 1107/6) See Operation Volume.

Submarine Dispositions — Appears Italian submarines work in company up to 4. Details of cruising dispositions on normal days. (C. in C., Med. 1815/6)

Situation — Situation report. Hostile aircraft approached island 0810 this morning but did not cross coast or drop bombs. Friendly French seaplane landed here last night. (Governor, 1224/6) A.O.C. requests no publication be released regarding French seaplane. (Governor. 1730/6)

Alexandria — Arrivals 6/7 3rd. C.S., JANUS, JUNO, ILEX and IMPERIAL. (S.O.I., ALEXANDRIA, 2010/6)

Attack on Bardia — 3rd C.S., accompanied by four destroyers, attacked shipping in Bardia harbour early this morning, 6/7. Two military supply ships were heavily hit and probably sunk. Squadron was later attacked by three enemy bombers without result. (C. in C., Med., 2305/6)

Convoy Bombed — (See Air)

Proposed Attack — Ref. A.T. 1803/28/6 and V.A. Malta's 1751/6/7. This golden opportunity of attacking surface ships should be seized. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med. 2006/6)

Enemy Report — 1 aircraft carrier, 2 destroyers bearing 177 distance 6 miles course 065. My position 306 LJWT (37° N., 1.28 E) (PROTEUS, 1833/6)

Air

CAPETOWN — Fighter aircraft despatched to your assistance. (Alexandria W/T Guard, 0910/6)

Raid on Tobruk — My 1251/6. Operation appears to have been successful. Nine torpedo aircraft took part, six certain hits claimed, including one on submarine. All aircraft returned safely. R.A.F. co-operation very effective. (C. in C., Med., 0851/6 R.A.F., M.E. 1934/6)

My 0851/6.....

War Diary. 28.4.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Mines near Drogden. Ship sunk.

Stockholm report that unknown ship yesterday afternoon struck a mine near Drogden Lightship in western part of Oresund and sank immediately. (Radio Paris, 0630/28 in French).
From Swedish shore south of Limhamn large explosion noticed yesterday afternoon on the Danish side, was the unknown steamer which was blown up N. of Drogden Lighthouse. (Motala in Swedish, 0900/28).
Malmo report, 8,000-ton freighter, believed German, sank yesterday Danish side Oresund, northward Drogden Lighthouse. This is fifth shipwreck this nature within three days observed Oresund. (Press cable).

X.209. April 28, ref. Air Ministry signal X.197 dated April 28 and confirming conversation between Operations and Wing Comdr. Boothman, lettuces are not to be planted.
(Air Min., 1950/28).

Mining of Vestfjorden.

Positions of mines laid and about to be laid off Rotraur Island (D.N.S. 2005/28).

Norway - Vestfjorden and approaches

(a) The Vestfjorden has been mined to the northward of a line extending in a direction 126 degrees from Vaeroy Island light 67 degrees 39 minutes north 12 degrees 45 minutes East to the Mainland.

(b) The channels to the north-east and to the south of Steinvaer island 69 degrees 10 minutes north 16 degrees 35 minutes east have also been mined.

(c) Vessels navigating in these areas without seeking instructions from the local British or Norwegian Naval Authorities do so at their peril.
(Admiralty S.W.1. 20th April, 1940.)

War Diary

6.7.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Air

Raid on Tobruk, Contd.

My 0851/6 request no public mention of torpedoes being used, as it appears from intercepted Italian report that enemy may attribute damage to low flying bombing attack. (C. in C.'s Med., 1629/6)

My 1251/5. Description of attack. Owing to glare and noise result of individual shots could not be observed, but one observer definitely saw 5 high columns of water in all and one pilot states he attacked a submarine and saw his torpedo hit. Intercepted Italian report states that motor vessel MANZONI and Italian destroyer ZENITRO were sunk, Italian destroyer EURO hit twice forward, all fore compartments flooded. Merchant ship LIGURIA damaged but water being kept down. Casualties, one killed and 20 wounded in destroyer ZENITRO. All pilots saw one very heavy explosion with flames rising to a great height. Impression from pilots is that one submarine, three or four large merchant ships and two small merchant ships were hit. Success of operation largely due to excellent R.A.F. co-operation in providing reconnaissance, diversionary attacks and aerodrome facilities. (C. in C., Med., 1931/6)

Raid on Catania

9 Swordfish raided Catania aerodrome dusk 5/7. Dive bombing attacks started 4 big fires in hangers and workshops. Little or no A/A fire. At Augusta 3 8 in cruisers, oil tanker and 4 destroyers observed. 1 French flying boat arrived, others expected (F.O.I.C., Malta, 1247/6)

Reconnaissance

Air reconnaissance today over Augusta reports 3 battleships, 3 heavy cruisers, 3 light cruisers, 8 destroyers, one floating dock and about 100 seaplanes parked round the Mole. (V.A., Malta 1751/6)

Your 1751/6. Request further reconnaissance of Augusta at dawn to-morrow 7/7 to check number and type of ship reported. (C. in C., Med., 2315/6)

Convey Bombed

Convoy from Aegean to Egypt was repeatedly bombed during the period of 3 days by aircraft from Dodecanese without any result, notwithstanding escort was weak in anti-aircraft fire. (C. in C., Med., 2307/6)

War Diary

28.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity

ASHANTI	My 0958. 8 bombs near ASHANTI who has 4 slight casualties. (NUBIAN, 1044/28).
BLACK SWAN damaged	Continuously bombed. (BLACK SWAN, 1055/28) One hit through ship starboard magazine and fresh water tank flooded BQRU 3840. Speed reduced, ammunition almost expended. Shall return Aandalsnes at dusk. (BLACK SWAN, 1620/28). 4 aircraft XKRU 4506/ (1742/28).
ARK ROYAL	Aircraft bombing my position CKOX 3654 (ARK ROYAL, 1218/28).
BOULONNAIS	French. Shadowed NJGD 4646 (BOULONNAIS, 1320/28).
KIMBERLEY	Shadowed CXGD 4600 X 12 (KIMBERLEY 1359/28). Bombing CXGD 3522 (1622/28) 3 aircraft, 5 bombs, no hits. (1655/28).
MATABELE	Bombing CXGD 3522 (1624/28).
JUNO	Bombing CXGD 4030 (1624/28).
Christiansand North	Bombed several times today. Town burning since 4 p.m. and still burning. I will call you at 2330. (no T.O.O., to RODNEY from Christiansand North, intercept 0055/29).

War Diary

6.7.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Enemy Intelligence

U-Boat Prisoners

Information from interrogation of prisoners of Italian submarine LUIGI GALVANI, Vice Adm. Belsamo commands at Massawa. LUIGI GALVANI not fitted mines Officers state no minelaying submarines at Massawa but commanding officer refused to answer. No evidence enemy raiders expected Indian Ocean or impending combined operations. 8 M.T.B's believed to be in Red Sea, type M.A.S. 418, but S.N.O., Red Sea Force reported all prisoners from Italian submarine GALILEO GALILEI stated they were decrepit, unreliable and unlikely to be used. (C. in C., E.I., 08082/6)

War Diary

6.7.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterreneans-Operations

Operation	Operation in Central Mediterranean (C. in C., 1059/6) Operation M.A. 5. Forces employed. (C. in C., Med. 1103/6. Orders to untits. (C. in C., Med. 1059/6, 1105/6 1107/6)
Submarine Dispositions	Appears Italian submarines work in company in groups up to 4. Details of

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Convoy W.S.1 — Adty. 1851/4. Request expected date of departure from Cape Town of W.S.1. and speed of advance. (C-in-C E.I. 0436Z/6)

Djibouti — My 1016/5. Consul, Djibouti wires to-day indications of general effect of Oran, far from being calamitous, may be very salutory. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 0952Z/6)

Convoys — My 2313/21/6. Propose vessels of C.M.2 proceed Bombay after disembarkation Malta. Suggestions for B.N.2 and W.S.1 (D. of S.S. to C-in-C E.I. 2201/6)

CARAIBE — Arrived Mombasa 0635 G.M.T. 6/7 with KENT. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 0821Z/6)

China

Coasting Trade — British, Norwegian and Dutch merchant ships and French merchant ships engaged in coasting trade may proceed to Indo-China ports and Kwang Chow Wan.

Situation Japan — Agree with Ambassador, Tokyo's 1149 to F.O. Suggest we should do all in our power to strengthen hand of Japanese moderates. (C-in-C China, 1315Z/6)

Norwegian Ships — Adty. 1835/21/4. Propose to discontinue practice of obtaining written undertakings from masters of Norwegian ships. (Cdre. I/C Hong Kong 1013Z/6) Approved (C-in-C China, 0233Z/7)

Mine — Reported from Singapore that a floating mine has been sighted near Balik Papan on the West or Borneo Coast of the Straits of Macassar, Netherlands East Indies. (D.S. 306)

America and West Indies

FURIOUS — In addition to aircraft and stores, has ammunition and sugar (FURIOUS, 1200/6)

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Bergen.

A/c report 1320, 2 miles S. Bergen 7 m.v's at anchor. 1325 Bergen Harbour approx. 40 m.v's, 1 M.v against inside of N. quay apparently on fire (Donibristle 1705/19).

Minefield (German) reported laid at junction Sor Fiord and Oster Fiord 60° 32' N. 5° 20' E. (AUCKLAND 1425/19).

War Diary

6.7.40.
Saturday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

General

Following is state of French Navy as on 6.7.40:-
Immobilised in British ports, including Alexandria and Malta:

(a)	Battleships	3	(e)	Destroyers	5
(b)	8" Cruisers	3	(f)	Torpedo Boats	6
(c)	6" Cruisers	1	(g)	Submarines	9
(d)	Contre Torpilleurs (Light Crs.)	3	(h)	Aircraft Carriers	-
			(k)	Miscellaneous	193

Following are at large:

(i) Western Mediterranean

(a)	1 (damaged)	(d)	22	(g)	44
(b)	4	(e)	10	(h)	1
(c)	5	(f)	5	(k)	Nil

(ii) Moroccan and West African Coast

(a)	2 (partially complete)	(e)	8
(c)	1	(f)	1
(d)	2	(g)	17
		(k)	31

(iii) West Indies

(c) 2 (h) 1

(iv) Far East

(c) 1 (k) 1

(v) Unaccounted for

(g) 8.

(D.N.I. 1337/7 to C. in C's).

Following statement has been communicated to the French Embassy in London:- Orders to all British warships meeting French warships are that they should on no account open fire without giving sufficient warning to enable alternatives to be considered by the French warships which would avoid bloodshed. During the operations off Oran on July 3, British submarines were ordered to attack any French ships endeavouring to escape. The instructions issued to the submarines on completion of the operation that French ships were no longer to be attacked did not reach one submarine, with the result that a French cruiser of the LA GALISSONNAIRE class was attacked and sunk. This occurrence is deeply regretted. (V.C.N.S., 1318/6).

War Diary

5.7.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

War Diary

6.7.40.
Saturday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Dakar

RICHELIEU — At anchor Dakar with awnings spread. (DORSETSHIRE, 0700Z/6 to C. in C. S.A.).

Your 1810/6. HERMES to leave Patrol 10th so as to arrive Freetown 0800/12 to fuel. (C. in C., S.A. 1930/6 to HERMES).

Gibraltar

Your 75489 (M.O.4) 4/7/40. Am complying with your instructions but request confirmation in view of the Adty. instructions 0026/6 to ~~XXXX~~ Admiral here. (Governor Gibraltar 1640/6 to War Office).

Your 0226/6 W.O. 75489/4/9 to Governor Gibraltar approving that action be taken to prevent passage of French warships through Straits pending clarification of Naval situation. This is not in accordance with para 3 Adty. 2005/4. Present instructions to Straits patrol are to permit passage of French Warships unless they commit a hostile act. (F.O.C.N.A. 1744/6 to Adty.).

Casablanca

JEAN BART — Where is JEAN BART berthed at Casablanca? (1st S.L., to F.O.C.N.A., 1645/6).

Your 1645/6. Alongside Jetee Delure south side. Bow pointing N.E. (F.O.C.N.A. 1850/6 to Adty.)

My 0156/5 (as to repatriation of French Troops to Casablanca), request you will make all arrangements with French Admiral Casablanca through Tangier if necessary. (A.C.N.S.F. 1912/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Oran

DUNKERQUE — Your 1750/5, 2154/5 and F.O.C.N.A. 1846/5. Cancel bombardment but carry out continuous torpedo attack on DUNKERQUE by aircraft torpedoes until she is thoroughly damaged. (1st S.L., 0224/6 to V.A. Force H.)

Six hits, one caused heavy explosion. 2 Skuas missing. Estimated time of arrival base 1645 (V.A. Force H., 0916/6).

My 0916/6. For two read one Skua missing. No casualties to personnel. (S.O.H. 1800/7 to Adty.)

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines reported.

1918	57° 09' N., 2° W., 085° Girdle Ness 3', reported by s.s. BALTRAKO. (I.C.0426/40). 19th A/S.S.F.searching. (A.S.W.D.229).
1828	(see s/m's attacked).
2211-2236	58° 10' N., 2° W., 30' to 60' N. Kinnaird Head, indefinite position. (0426/40,I.C.).
1925	54° 56' N., 5° 30' W., 300° Port Patrick 16'. P/S on southerly course reported by cross-Channel steamer, reliability uncertain. (I.C. 0425/40). (A.C.W.A.0151/20, 0019/20).
Pm	Halse Fjord (Kristiansand N.)(I.C.0427/40).

Submarines attacked.

U-boat ashore.

U-boat reported ashore Maline Head. A/c sent. Investigate (A.C.W.A.1159/19 to VERSATILE, SALADIN). If U-boat is ashore order her to abandon ship. If order not obeyed fire one or two warning rounds. When U-boat has been abandoned she is to be holed to prevent refloating. (C.in C., W.A.1225/19 to VERSATILE, SALADIN).

1828	(? French) destroyer escorting transport dropped d.c's 52° 33' N. 5° 57' W. at 1935 he rejoined Convoy and ROCHESTER remains to hunt. At 1957 dropped patterns. (ROCHESTER 2021/19) (A.S.W.D.229).

War Diary

6.7.40.
Saturday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Oran (Contd.)

Description of the attack. One Skua caught fire and force landed in sea alongside ARK ROYAL. No casualties to personnel but several Swordfish hit. (F.O. Force H. 1905/6).

Cancel my 1800. My 1905 refers (S.O."H" 2337/6).

My 1905/6. Add: "I am satisfied that Ship is now unfit for service during ensuing 12 months". (V.A.H. 2135/6 to Adty.)

PANDORA)
PROTEUS) Proceed to Gibraltar (V.A.H. 1635/6 to PANDORA)

Adty. 0056/5. Force H can sail 0300/7 but this would not allow feint to East. (S.O. Force H 1714/6 to Adty.)

My 1714. If ship still in position given in DORSETSHIRE's 1125/3, Torpedo attack can be carried out at dawn. If ship inside Harbour bombardment would cause heavy civilian casualties and damage. Should warning be given? (V.A.H. 1745/6 to Adty.)

Your 1714/6. Force H will not be required to sail before the evening of 7th July. (D.O.D.F. 2007/6 to V.A.H.)

My 2145/5 (Force H less RESOLUTION). Vessels returned 1645/6 (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1652/6 to Adty.)

PROTEUS and PANDORA are temporarily to come under orders of F.O.C. North Atlantic. (D.O.D.F. 2224/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Alexandria

Your 2303/5 para 2. You should not give this understaking without further reference to Adty. unless you find it essential in order to prevent ships being scuttled. (V.C.N.S. to C. in C., Med., 1234/6)

Mombasa

French aircraft carrier CARAIBE arrived with KENT. (D.C.N.S. 307)

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Home Commands.

RIO DE JANEIRO — 5361 G.T. Confirmed that this ship was intercepted at 1112 and sunk by ORZEL at 1145/8 in position 58° 08' N., 08° 29' E. (I.C., 0425/40).

NORDLAND — Intercepted W/T message 1015/17 from agents at Sarpsborg, Norway, 59° 16' N., 11° 07' E., to agents at Danzig, states ship has been unloaded, crew had been interned for two days, and ship not yet allowed to sail. (I.C.0425/40).

War Diary

6.7.40.
Saturday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Papeete

Consul Papeete reports French sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE sailing 6/7 for unknown destination, believed Saigon. (S.O.I., Wellington, 0141/6).

Aruba

Aruba reports departure 1300/6 French Warship with all French Troops. (S.O.I. Kingston, Jamaica 1644/6 to Adty.)

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.

HOME COMMANDS.

Aandalnes.

Operation Sickle.

Operation Sickle completed. Operation Sickle completed without opposition Your 2319/19. Intend now leaving only one sloop at Aalesund (CS 2 0700/19 to Admiralty)

Primary task remains secure Dombaas area. Now probable you will be reinforced by another brigade (C 195 to Sickle, D.S.O. 1948/19 to BLACK SWAN).

C.in C. Norwegian forces asks Brig. Morgan to place himself under his orders (Primrose 2315/19 to Admiralty).

War Diary

6.7.40.
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

HAVELLAND	Sailed from Manzanilla, Mexico, 27/6. Destination now reported Vladivostock. (I.C. 0503/40)
ANTILLA	Scuttled at Aruba (D.W. Indies) on May 10. Lloyd's Surveyor reports can probably be raised. (D.S. 305)
INGO	Expected to leave Split for North Italian port p.m. 5/7, cargo 5500 tons bauxite. (S.C.I. Alexandria, 1215/6)
LAS PALMAS	reported she would arrive at Herrenwiek (Travemünde) about 2000/5. (I.C. 0503/40)
CIARA L.M. RUSS	reported she would arrive at Lubeck p.m./5 (I.C. 0503/40)
BESSEL	at Vigo, received 3/7 two lorry loads of small cases from German Embassy, contents unknown possibly provisions (I.C. 0503/40)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CELENO	Arrived from Batum, cargo for Germany 4500 tons oil fuel (Varna, 0912/6)
CABOTO BARBARA tanker BRONTE do.	At Bandar Shapur
HILDA	At Bandar Abbas
	Lloyds Triestino, Teheran have been informed that visas have been obtained for crews of above to proceed to Italy via Russia. (I.C. 0503/40)
M.V. MANZONI LIGURIA	Intercepted Italian report that MANZONI was sunk in attack on Tobruk 5/7 and LIGURIA damaged (C-in-C Med. 1931/6)

War Diary. 19. 4. 40.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

1603 GALATEA reported a single unexplained explosion about 60 miles N.W. of Stadlandlet. Possible she was unsuccessfully attacked by a U-boat (C.S.W.D.229).

Submarines reported.

Estimated disposition. No indication of changes except that one is in Irish Sea. (D.D.I.C.1333/19).

WALKER ordered to make Chicken Rock at dawn and sweep to 298° Bar Light Vessel 15½ miles. VERSATILE attacked contact 2000/18 and buoyed position (N.O.I.C.Liverpool 0027/19).

1500 Mal Hd. reports 2 U-boats on surface 8 miles W. proceeding E., 2 destroyers and a/c bearing N.E. (C.in C., W.A., 1737/19).

1115 Off Videro (FRANKLIN 1250/19) 61-28 N.,6.56 W 2' W. of Sudero. S/m seen on surface, co.N. (I.C.0425/40).

1603 see GALATEA, ships attacked.

0855 see DENBIGHSHIRE, Ships Attacked.

1300 In Loksefiord, 68° 55' N., 17° 40' E. *

---- In Westfiord, 67° 30' N., 12° 30' E. *

1950 In Westfiord, 67° 41' N., 13° 05' E. *

*Reports originating from Navy Office, Tromso, reliability unknown. (I.C.0426/40).

0906 64° 20' N., 2° E., 327° Stadtlandet 155', indefinite position (I.C., 0426/40).

0900 59° 40' N., 3° 25' E., 243° Bergen, 74' reported by A/C (I.C.0426/40).

War Diary 6.7.1940. Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

S.S. VAPPER Sunk — Estonian (4543 tons) sunk 1005/6, 49°30'N 15'W. H.M.C.S. RESTIGOUCHE saved survivors (RESTIGOUCHE 1525/7) Not in convoy.

Submarines Reported

0320 — 58.39 N., 03.56 E., about 52 miles W by N. from Bergen (PORPOISE 0320/6)

0410 — 60.07 N., 02.45 E., about 90 miles N.W. by W. from Bergen. Reported by aircraft (Aircraft 269 Sqdn. 0410/6)

0650 — 49.27N., 08.12 W., about 70 miles W.S.W. from Lands End. Reported by aircraft (aircraft duty F to Plympton R.A.F./6)

1015 — By aircraft, seen on surface, 1 mile off Lyme Regis, course W. N.A/S E. 1, ordered to hunt. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1115/6/)

1030 — Reliable fix. 48.53 N., 06.17'W RESTIGOUCHE ordered to attacks. (C. in C., W.A. 1129/6)

0340 — 60° 30'N., 2° 50'E Course 220° aircraft report (I.C. 0504/40)

0953 — 48°53' N., 6°17'W. Reported on surface by ULSTER PRINCE. (I.C. 0504/40)

0900 — 42°11'N 5°52'W reported seen by Fishermen (I.C. 0504/40)

Submarines Attacked

Before 0931 — By aircraft 49.27 N, 08.12 W (C. in C., W.A. 0931/6) VANQUISHER and WINCHELSEA also to ordered to attack.

1455 — By aircraft, position 48.40' N., 07.07'W at 1455 (C. in C., W.A., 1601/6)

1130 — BROKE attacked contact at 20° Land End 104' (I.C. 0504/40)

1130 — 49° 44' N., 8° 19'W BROKE attacked contact VANQUISHER 1130/6 to C. in C., W.A.)

War Diary

6.7.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterraneans-Operations

Operation	Operation in Central Mediterranean (C. in C., 1059/6) Operation M.A. 5. Forces employed. (C. in C., Med. 1103/6. Orders to untits. (C. in C., Med. 1059/6, 1105/6 1107/6)
Submarine Dispositions	Appears Italian submarines work in company in groups up to 4. Details of

War Diary

6.7.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Attacked

28/6
29/6

Confirmation and details of attacks on Italian submarine by flying boat of 230 Sqdn. on 28/6 and 29/6 referred to in my A 465, 2/7. (A. 487/ 6/7 H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1934/6)

War Diary

28.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity

V.A.A. Report — Operations today. Trondheim raid 0430 by Swordfish and Skuas. All hangars on Varnes aerodrome now destroyed also several aircraft. 15 flying boats and seaplanes at anchor bombed with good results. Skuas destroyed 5 Heinkels and damaged as many others. One Skua lost. One JU.88 shot down by ARK ROYAL. After short rest we shall be ready for next round. (V.A.A., 1752/28).

Enemy Air Activity

CARLISLE — Shadowed 345 CXIF 30 (0530/28). Enemy bombing Namsos (CARLISLE, 1011/28)

CALCUTTA — Aircraft bombing 032 CXND 18 (CALCUTTA 1053/28) My 1053. 3 bombs, no hits. (CALCUTTA,1055/28). Shadowed CXTS 0620 (CALCUTTA, 1300/28).

SIKH — Shadowed 210 PFJV 7. (0738/28) 3 aircraft bombing (1016/28).

NUBIAN — Bombed by 3 aircraft. (0750/28, 0920/28). 7 aeroplanes (0937/28, 0938/28). 16 bombs no hits. (0954/28, 0958/28, 1041/28).

BRAZEN — Bombed CXGD 350 (BRAZEN 1624/28).

D4 — Aircraft carries being bombed, my position 317 PFRU 13 (D.4 1014/28).
My 1014 still being attacked no hits (D.4 1343/28).
65 further misses on convoy today (D.4, 1601/28)

Molde — Aircraft attacking us. (Molde W/T, 0842/28) Help Molde (Aandalsnes 0900/28, 1010/28, 1047/28, 1050/28). (Molde, 1023/28, 1155/28, 1201/28).

VETERAN — Shadowed (0928/28).

Aandalsnes — 3 Aircraft (BLACK SWAN 0946/28) 4 more bombing (1007/28)

WAR DIARY — HOME COMMANDS — 7.7.40 Sunday

Defence of U.K.

An ex German Merchant vessel flying White Ensign was recently able to proceed from Portsmouth Westabout to within 20 miles of Hoxa Boom unchallenged by H.M. Ships.

Any Merchant Vessel, whose presence in area is regarded as suspicious, is always to be examined. Misuse of White Ensign by enemy is a likely course of action at all times and particularly when possibility of invasion exists. (C. in C. H.F. 1749/7 to Home Fleet).

Portland. — Request immediate action to strengthen A/A Defence. (F.O.I.C.Portland 1735/7 to,Admiralty.

Movements

One ship of 2nd C.S. to reinforce Patrol U. during dark hours till further notice. (C.in C. Nore 1038/7 to F.O.I.C.Humber).

S/m's. — Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/8.

TRIAD TAKU TETRARCH SUNFISH TRIBUNE PORPOISE SEAWOLF SALMON SPEARFISH STURGEON SWORDFISH H.28 H.49 as in my 1512 6th July. SEALION vicinity Jaederens. TRUANT and WILK leave Rosyth p.m. North Eastwards. TIGRIS and H.32 escorted by WARRIOR 2 from Portsmouth arrive Rothesay 2115 and Campbeltown 1900 respectively. THAMES escorted by HEARTSEASE from Plymouth arrives Greenock 2030 8th July. L.26 exercising West of Hoy. H.49 operating between Dover and Calais, OBERON near ZJGB 8741, OTWAY near ZJGB 1346. (V.A.S. 1854/7 V.A.Dover 1915/5, C.in C. Portsmouth 1925/5).

9th D.Flotilla. — Proceed from Liverpool to act as A/S Striking Force between 51°N,48°N, Scilly, and 12°W. where there are now four U-boats. (C.in C. W.A.1724/7 To Capt. D. 9th.).

SANDHURST. — Could you maintain Dover Destroyers without SANDHURST.(V.C.N.S.1852/7 to V.A.Dover).

SHEFFIELD. — Raise steam at one hours notice forthwith and at half hour's notice by 2100. (C.S.18. 1636/7 to SHEFFIELD.).

WAR DIARY — HOME COMMANDS. — 7.7.40 Sunday

E-Boats.

Cherbourg. — Five E-Boats in Harbour (I.C.0505/40).

A i r

British Air Activity

Willemsfoord. — At 0235/7 bombed large M/V. in inner harbour. Results not seen. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0715/8).

Ostend. — One large vessel hit in Bassin Leopold at 2230/7. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0258/8).

Boulogne. — One M/V. bombed in harbour at 0410/7. (I.C.0505/40).

A i r

British Air Activity

Bergen. — Eight Skuas attacked Oil-Tanks and Oiler at Lidsvaag, Bergen at 0540. No hits on ships and damage not known. (Hatston 0816/7 toA.C.O.S.)

Attacked 3 minesweepers at 53°35'N. 5°10'E at 0530/7. No hits. (A/C 220 Sqdn. 0535/7) (Donibristle 0930/7).

All available A/C 53 Sqdn. to attack Barges and Trawlers in harbour at Ostend tonight (H.Q.C.C.1655/7).

Naval Targets at Bremen and Emden, and Norderney Aerodromes and Brunsbuttel attacked during night 6/7. No results observed. Two Motor Boats attacked at 55°4'N. 10°57'E. and a stationary ship at 54°53'N. 10°52'E. Near misses observed. (H.Q.B.C. 1545/7). Attacked 2 Minesweepers at 2155 in 53°27' 5°3'E. No.No.hits. (A/C 220 Sqdn.2200/7).

WAR DIARY — HOME COMMANDS — 7.7.40 Sunday

Enemy Air Activity.

Eight enemy A/C Lydd Light Vessel (GRIFFIN 1305/7).

KASHMIR — A/C bombing my position 53°15'N. 1°5'E. (KASHMIR 1648/7). Note, KASHMIR was undamaged (I.C.0505/40).

Dover. — At 1550/7 one enemy A/C dropped 8 bombs on Dover Harbour. No hits or damage to ships. (V.A.Dover 1823/7 to Admiralty).

Three A/C circlying Convoy. (FOXGLOVE 1705/7) Fighters have left for your assistance (Portsmouth W/T station 1707/7) Enemy A/C bombing. My position 50°20'N. 1°57'W. (FOXGLOVE 0901/8).

GRIFFIN, CHESTNUT damaged. — Twelve A/C bombing 120 Duncan Head 4 miles (GRIFFIN 2054/7). GRIFFIN and Trawler Patrols off Dungeness heavily attacked by 18 Bombers at 2025 to-day. Slight damage to CHESTNUT and 3 wounded. No apparent damage to GRIFFIN. (V.A.Dover 2252/7 to Admiralty).

MERCURY. — Paddle M/S bombed at 1400/7 in Portland Harbour. Four killed and four wounded. Slight material damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1735/7 to Admiralty).

BRITISH INVENTOR — Near miss at 1400/7 in Portland Harbour. One killed, three injured. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1735/7 to Admiralty).

Mooring Lighter. — Bombed 10' off St.Albans Head. No damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1735/7 to Admiralty).

Falmouth. — Bombing at 1620 and 1745 caused some damage, and a few casualties in the Docks.

Mining.

Minelaying was suspected at Tyne, Flamborough, Thames Estuary, and Margate; and a Mine was reported off the Tyne entrance. (I.C.0505/40).

Three Mines were exploded at once in the Tyne/Blyth Inshore Channel East of St.Mary's Island, and one off Hartlepool; and many Floating Mines were reported off the Dutch Coast East of 3°E. (I.C.0505/40).

The Tees, Amble, and Newhaven are still closed. (I.C.0505/40).

WAR DIARY HOME COMMANDS. 7.7.40
Sunday

Enemy Intelligence.

5000 Tons M/V. reported aground off Obrestad. SEALION to investigate. (R.A.S.1256/7).

Brest. Naval and Shipping disposition unchanged. (P.D.U.I. 0110/7 to N.I.D.).

Boulogne. Two M/V's. 2000 Tons outside Harbour and 5 small ships inside. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1857/7 to Admiralty.)

One Norwegian M/V 50°42'N. 1°55'W. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1857/7 to Admiralty).

Calais, Nieuport Ostend P.D.U. Sortie to-day shows no shipping activity. (P.D.U.I. 1826/7 to Admiralty.)

Ostend. 1520/7. Bassin de Chaussie, 50 Barges, Trawlers. Bassin Leopold, not more than 50 Barges. (T.H.I. 0330/8).

Weather

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Light to moderate S.E. Light variable near coast.	Moderate, poor locally.	Winds similar, Vis. improving slowly from West.
Channel	West light.	Very good, moderate locally in E.	S.W. light to moderate, vis. good.
Western Approaches	Westerly light.	Very good.	Similar.
Horn's Reef	S.E. moderate.	Moderate, poor locally.	Similar.
W. Coast of Norway	Easterly, moderate.	Very good.	N.E. moderate, vis. good to moderate.

WAR DIARY HOME COMMANDS. 7.7.40
Sunday

Casualties and Defects.

SHARK — If no information by 0900/8, must be presumed lost. (V.A.S. 1101/7 to Admiralty).

EL GRILLO — Afloat and anchored in 18°30'N. 74°30'W. with Salvage Vessel standing by. Tanks much flooded but all under control. Request instructions where to proceed. (E. GRILLO 0010/7 to Admiralty).

ANTONIS GEORGANDIS — Greek. Left St.Vincent, Cape Verde 5/6 for Limerick. Not heard of since. (I.C. 0504/40).

War Diary

7.7.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Pamphlets — Re propaganda pamphlets (F.O.C.N.A. 2324/7).

South Atlantic

TABARISTAN / DIEGO SUAREZ — At Diego Suarez. Re obtaining release of, by exchange (A.C.N.S. (T) 2025/7 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

French ports banned — British ships are not to call at any French port (C. in C., S.A. 1054/7 to G.B.M.S.)

BULOLO — Your 1235/6 re sailing approved (C. in C., S.A. 2107/6 to DRAGON).

Mediterranean

Operations

Operations against Italy — 1st S.L. 0419/7 to V.A. Force H. / V.A. "H" 1430/7, 1440/7 to Adty.) See Operations Volume.

Intend to attack ships in Augusta if still there night 9 July with torpedo bombers followed up by bombardment. (Remainder of signal entered in operations volume) (C. in C., Med. 1051/7 to Adty.)

Fleet will operate off Sicilian Coast during night of 9/10 July.

Between 2000/9 and 0600/10 submarines are to be confined to following area. RORQUAL.
N. of 037:40 N. and W. of 016:00 E. PHOENIX.
S. of line 130° Cape Murro Di Porco and W. of 015:30 E. Acknowledge. (C. in C., Med. 1105/7 to RORQUAL, PHOENIX).

Disposition of Italian Fleet as far as known (1st S.L. 0430/7 to V.A. Force H., 0430/7).

Operation M.A.5 Augusta — Amendments to operation orders. (C. in C., Med. 1103/7 to Med. Fleet).

My 0515/7. Reconnaissance reports 6 large ships heavy cruisers or larger, 4 or 5 light cruisers and a lot of auxiliary craft still at Augusta. Intend to carry out attack by 3 Swordfish carrying torpedoes and 6 carrying armour piercing bombs at 2200 local time tonight Sunday. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 1205/7).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Operations (Contd.)

Attack by Aircraft Proposed

Your 1205/7. Would prefer you use bombs only as I hope to put EAGLE's aircraft with torpedoes at them on Tuesday. (C. in C., Med., to F.O.I.C. Malta, 1343/7).

Orders to C. in C. Gibraltar

As a result of clarification of Naval situation you will now assist naval forces to carry out Adty. instructions 2005/4. Action against French warships attempting to pass through Straits is responsibility of Navy and you will not take action unless H.M.ships engage French warships. French warships approaching Gibraltar harbour should be called upon to heave ~~xxxx~~ to and explain their business. Should the force refuse to stop it should be assumed that they are approaching with hostile intent and should be engaged. (W.O. 1535/7 to Governor Gib.).

Attack on Augusta

My 1205/7 operation postponed on account of unfavourable weather. Intend carrying out tomorrow Monday. A.O.C. considers one flight torpedoes should be suitably target appears suitable from photographs. Combination of dive bombing and torpedo attack provides best prospect since former will divert attention from latter. In view of A.A. fire recently encountered and large numbers of fighter aircraft in vicinity consider it advisable to operate in dark hours only with Swordfish. (F.O.I.C. Malta 1958/7 to C. in C., Med.)

Re. Adty. 0419/7. I intended to include operations referred to in my 1107/6 an attack by F.A.A. on ships in Augusta if still there after a bombardment. These are timed for about 0815/9 and 2200/9.

2. Suggest Force "H" might carry out similar operation against ships in Naples Trapani Palermo or Messina in that order of importance, but latter is very heavily defended.

3. I do not advise F.A.A. attack on ships in Taranto until more experience has been gained of attack on known well defended harbour. (C. in C., Med. 1409/7 to F.O."H" Force).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Operations (Contd.)

Your 1409/7. Lack of destroyers with sufficient endurance and time to formulate proper plans prevent me from undertaking operations you suggest at present. I will sail AM/8 and carry out air attack on Cagliari at dawn 10/7 as this should cause a diversion. (S.O. Force H 1720/7 to C. in C., Med.)

My 1720/7. Intended to employ whole of Force H for this operation (S.O.Force H. 1750/7 to Adty.)

Mediterranean - Air

Reconnaissance — Your 2315/6. Reconnaissance delayed owing to weather. (F.O.I.C., Malta, to C. in C., Med., 0515/7).

Air raids on Malta — Enemy over Malta 3 times today. Big raid am object dockyards. Casualties. Direct hits on OLYMPUS in dock. Hoped repairable, 4 months required (V.A. Malta 2205/7).

Tobruk — 6/7 one Blenheim 113 Squadron made successful photographic reconnaissance Tobruk Harbour 1400 hours to ascertain damage by 813 Sqdn. torpedo attack 5/7. Reconnaissance shows 2 ships approx. 15,000 tons aground and one ship approx. 8,000 tons heavily down by stern in south side harbour. Part two follows. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1759/7).

A.499 7/6. Part 2. One ship approx. 6,000 tons lying on its side in centre harbour, one cruiser and one other merchant ship possibly damaged. Siting of other ships completely disorganised 4 submarines 3 cruisers and 3 destroyers also observed in harbour. (H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. 1803/7).

Flying Boat Patrols — M.A. five para. 18. D. three, four and five. Flying Boat patrol reduced patrolling as follows: Flying Boats leave Malta at one hour and 50 minutes intervals and fly on line Malta Xante returning to Sicily Coast along parallel tracks 40 miles further North then back to Greek Coast 40 miles further North again finally returning to Sicily Coast 40 miles further North again and return along Sicily Coast to Malta. Flying Boats will examine region A and 1400/D three, again two hours before sunset D three, and again A.M.D four. (C. in C.,Med. 1407/7).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

LANCASHIRE — Sailing today for Colombo (N.O.I.C. Kilindini 1120Z/7).

British Somaliland Jibuti — Your D/30,303 7/7 (to C. in C. and A.O.C. British Forces Aden's A 379 7/7. I most strongly urge utmost endeavour be made to provide not only for holding of British Somaliland but also for denial of Jibuti to Italians so that security of sea communications of sea communications and naval base Aden shall not be further threatened nor our prestige lowered. All possible naval support will be given. (C. in C., E.I. 1958/7 to G.O.C. M.E.).

Troop Transports — Reply to D. of S.T. 2201/6 (P.S.T.O. E.I., Bombay 1005/7).

China

French Indo China — It has been agreed that no hostilities shall take place between British and French Warships on China Station. Ships must not however relax precautions incase of attack. Except in emergency H.M. Ships are not to approach withint 20 miles of coast French Indo China, and are to avoid contact with French Warships. French shipping is not to be detained if met at sea. (C. in C., China 0518Z/7).

Reply to B.L.O. Saigon 0700Z/6 (C. in C. China, 0519/7).

New Zealand

French Attitude — Consular Officer, Papeete, reports:- Governor and S.N.O. assure me under their own signature that on no account will British Merchant Vessels and Men of War be attacked in zone of their command of South Pacific providing reciprocal guarantees are given.

If this assurance not satisfactory to British Authorities as to safety of expected British steamers carrying foodstuffs believed to have been loaded at Sydney may be send a French steamer to collect these foodstuffs at Sydney or any other port at which they may be disembarked under similar guarantee.

Governor/

War Diary

7.7.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

New Zealand

French Attitude (Contd.)

Governor assures you that he wishes to come to a satisfactory solution of his intention to act only in complete accord and in most loyal way vis a vis British Authorities - (ends).
(Navy Office, Wellington, 0054Z/7)

War Diary

7.7.1940.
Sunday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

U.K.

Proposed policy regarding French ships is to bring ships forward for service one by one with crews preponderatingly British. Request immediate information whether destroyers or submarine chasers are preferred first, observing that chasers can be in commission very soon.
Destroyers can be soon effective for limited function of attacking transports using local control during working up period but full efficiency for extended operations will take some time to attain. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1057/7 to Adty.)

RUBIS

All officers and men except 5 wish to continue in British service. (V.A. (S) 1246/8)

Dakar

RICHELIEU

My 0015/5 and C. in C., S.A.'s 1101/6
(i) No fleet oiler apparently available and I assume that alternatives proposed by C. in C., South Atlantic are not acceptable.
(ii) HOOD has not hose for oiling at sea and insufficient are available at Gibraltar.
(iii) Without refuelling HOOD must proceed at 14 knots and according to ships data would have only 15% remaining on return to base. If HOOD is used it would therefore be necessary for Force H to proceed to Freetown to refuel.
(iv) If proposal in (iii) not acceptable suggest reliance be placed on T/B attack and force consisting of ARK ROYAL VALIANT and 6 A.E. and F Class destroyers latter to be fuelled from H.M.S. ARK ROYAL and H.M.S. VALIANT. Understood ship not even carried out gun trials and therefore VALIANT should prove a match for her if she should be encountered at sea.
(v) An advantage of (iv) is that presence of HOOD RESOLUTION and cruiser at Gibraltar will probably help to conceal projeted operations and also assist to maintain control of Straits.
(vi) If ship is inside harbour consider operation should be abandened for reason given in my 1745 6th July.
(vii) Request that oiler be made available Freetown in case fuelling at sea becomes impracticable.
(viii) Should the proposal in para (iv) be approved consider R.A. Aircraft Carriers should be put in charge of operation.
(F.O.C.H.0139/7 to Adty.)

/Subsequently....

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Dakar

RICHELIEU Contd. Subsequently decided that operation against RICHELIEU will be carried out by RENOWN and 8 in cruisers and V.A. Force H to operate against targets on coast of Italy. (1st. S.L. 0419/7) (See ~~Operations~~ Volume)
Part Narrative

H.M. Govt. have decided that the question of RICHELIEU and other French warships at Dakar must be settled without delay.

2. You have been selected to take charge of the operation and are hereby appointed Acting Rear-Admiral until further orders.

3. Take command of DORSETSHIRE, AUSTRALIA and MILFORD.

4. Communicate with the French Naval Authorities at Dakar in the manner you think best and transmit the text of message which follows in my 0345. A decision should be asked for within 4 hours, so as not to give RICHELIEU time to get under way.

5. Should alternative 3 be accepted take such measures of demilitarisation as not necessary to ensure that the ships could be brought into service for at least one year.

6. If all alternatives are refused, as soon as possible carry out attack on RICHELIEU with torpedo aircraft until she is sufficiently disabled.

7. Bombardment by 8" cruisers should not be carried out in view of small damage to be expected on RICHELIEU and strength of coast defences.

8. DORSETSHIRE and AUSTRALIA should show themselves at intervals during the operation but no unnecessary risk of submarine attack should be accepted by any ship. French Naval Authorities should be informed that your forces are being kept at a distance until their decision is taken on account of their submarines.

9. Should it be possible after RICHELIEU has been dealt with the two light cruisers should also be attacked. A.M.C's should not be attacked.

/10.....

War Diary

7.7.1940.
Sunday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Dakar

RICHELIEU Contd.

10. Any ships which endeavour to put to sea should be brought to action. Whether 8" cruisers should attack RICHELIEU in these circumstances must depend on whether her 15" armament is in action and efficient.

11. H.M. Govt. desire the operation to be carried out as soon as possible subject to your plans being completed.

12. Should RICHELIEU have left Dakar before receipt of these orders she is to be called upon to stop. If she obeys this order the procedure outlined above is to be carried ou If she refuses to stop she is to be attacked with torpedo aircraft.

(1st S.L. 0344/7 to HERMES)

Following communication is to be made to French Naval Authorities at Dakar referred to in my 0344.

5. H.M. Govt. have instructed me to demand that the French Fleet, now at Dakar, shall act in accordance with one of the following alternatives:-

(1) Sail with reduced crews and without ammunition under our control to a British port. The reduced crews will be repatriated at the earliest moment.

If this course is adopted by you, we will restore your ships to France at the conclusion of the war, or pay full compensation if they are damaged meanwhile

(2) Sail with us with reduced crews and with out ammunition to some French port in the We Indies, where they can be demilitarized or be entrusted to the United States, crews being repatriated.

(3) Demilitarize your ships at Dakar to my satisfaction within the period of 12 hours so that they will be incapable of taking part further in the present war.

(4) Sink your ships within six hours.
I require a decision as to which alternativ you will adopt within 4 hours

/6.....

War Diary

7.7.1940.
Sunday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Dakar Contd..

6. Finally failing the above, I have the orders of H.M. Govt. to use whatever force may be necessary to secure that ships are unable to take further part in the war.

(1st S.L. 0345/7 to HERMES)

It is understood from L.O's recently with French ships that some ships already had a scheme for demilitarization at two hours' notice. If such a scheme exists and you are satisfied with it best course might be to put into force. (1st . S.L. 0354/7 to HERMES)

MILFORD, DORSETSHIRE, and AUSTRALIA are placed under orders of C.O. HERMES who has been appointed Acting Rear Admiral. (V.C.N.S 0357/7 to MILFORD)

Request your views for A.M. 0419/7 at very early date. (F.O.C.H. 1040/7 to C. in C., Med.)

MILFORD on her way into Dakar with Ultimatum should arrive about 1500 G.M.T. today (R.A. HERMES 1300/7 to Adty.)

MILFORD reports Admiral Dakar threatens open fire unless he retires. MILFORD has asked Admiral to reconsider decision, but he refuses. Intend to attack at dusk. (HERMES 1455/7 to Adty.)

Your 1455/7 Approved. (D.C. 1924/7 to HERMES)

My 1455/7 Admiral Dakar has indicated that Governor General has given him permission to communicate with MILFORD by W/T. Am accordingly transmitting text of Adty. message 0345/7 to him by W/T and giving him two hour from time of receipt. (HERMES 1700/7 to Adty.)

/The Ultimatum.....

War Diary

7.7.1940.
Sunday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Dakar. Contd.

The ultimatum apparently will not expire till after 2000 when it will be darkness. My personal opinion is that attack on RICHELIEU in darkness in her present position will be extremely difficult and liable to failure. I recommend attacking at dawn. (C. in C., S.A. 1912/7 to Adty.)

Gibraltar

Your 2025/6 French warships passing through Straits should be treated as in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of my 2005/4. Forts at Gibraltar should assist you to carry out these instructions if possible. War Office will be requested to amend their instructions. (D.O.D. (F) 0012/7 to F.O.C.N. A.)

Reference your 2012 cipher 4/7 and 75673 (M.O.I. cipher 4/7. Pending clarification of naval situation your proposed action against any French Warships attempting to pass through repeat pass through Straits approved. French Warships approaching repeat approaching Gibraltar harbour should be called upon to heave to and to comply with one of following three courses. First continue to fight with us, Second- hand over ships in which case crews will be repatriated Third- sink ship.

Any ship failing to heave to or, having heaved to, refusing to comply with one of three courses above should be fired on. (War Office 1820/4 to Governor, Gibraltar)

Alexandria

Adty. 1234/6.
1. There appears to be no way of ensuring that French ships will not scuttle in the event of a declaration of war by France particularly if the Fleet is at sea.

2. The French are reluctant to reduce crews for fear that we shall seize the ships.

3. In order to avert the danger of scuttling (probable situation if war is declared) and to expedite the discharge of crews. I consider that the best terms which can be acceded in the circumstances are as given in paragraph four. These terms have come out as result of considerable negotiations and seem the limit unless we are to take forcible action and risk the sinking of the ships in harbour. /4...

War Diary

7.7.1940.
Sunday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Alexandria- Contd.

4. Terms would be:-
(a) French ships to be maintained with sufficient crews to allow upkeep of material.

(b) French guarantee not to scuttle their ships attempt to leave harbour or to commit any act hostile to us.

(c) The British will not attempt to seize the French ships by force (but see (f) and (g).)

(d) Supplies and pay for warships detained at Alexandria to be responsibility of the British.

(e) Ships to be returned at signing of peace.

(f) In the event of French warships being taken over by the Italians or Germans this agreement to be reconsidered.

(g) If war is declared between England and France a new situation not covered by this agreement will arise.

5. The above does not effect the measures given in my 2303/5 para one which have already been put into effect.

(f) Free both parties but only after consultation.

(g) Free both parties without consultation but as stated there is no hope of obtaining a guarantee if war is declared.

(C. in C., Med. 1827/7 to Adty.)

War Diary

7.7.1940.
Sunday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

East Indies

My 1111/5. Re French ship CARAIBE.
(i) All Officers and men landed. Officers on Parole. Breech block and depth charge pistol thrown over board by French. Ammunition being unladded, 7th July wireless made in-operative.

(ii) Owing to difficulty of guarding and accommodating ashore crew of 130 who are reported very truculent intend to re-embark them in CARAIBE which may also lead to better relations. Slight risk of scuttling must be accepted.

(iii) Arrangements to repatriate crew to Madagascar or France being investigated.

(iv) French Admiral Far East not informed by me of action taken.

(v) No British Warships will be at Mombasa from 9/7 until about 20/7.

(C. in C., East Indies. 11422/7 to Adty.)

War Diary

7.7.40.
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CERIGO — recruiting crew.

ERIANGEN — completing coal, soliciting German passengers to Germany August.

PORTLAND)
OSORNO) — Exchanging officers.

All above on west coast of S. America (S.O.I. Kingston 1021/7)

KRONOS — Arrived with cargo of construction steel (B.C. Goteborg 1257/7)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

DAPHNE
P.L.M.14
CETUS
BEAUMANOIR
P.L.M.22
MEDEE
LILIAN
OREGON
ANGOULEME

DAPHNE, (1969 tons) and the P.L.M.14 are at Methil, and CETUS (ex-Norwegian under French Contract) (2614 tons) BEAUMANOIR (2324 tons) the P.L.M.22, 5447 tons, the MEDEE (1882 tons) and LILIAN (ex-Danish under French flag) (1271 tons) are in the Tyne. Armed guards have been placed on board all the ships and their machine guns and the breech blocks of their heavy guns have been removed.

According to a press report the French auxiliary ship OREGON (7706 tons) and ANGOULEME (2451 tons) which had put into Punta Arenas (Chile) on July 5, suddenly left for Balboa (Panama Canal) on July 6. It is believed that both ships are carrying aeroplanes.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships attacked

tanker	A/c reports torpedoed tanker in position 49.54 N, 8.05 W, at 0748/7. Crew in life-boats. RESTIGOUCHE ordered to hunt in vicinity. (C-in-C W.A. 0813/7) Tug SALVONIA sent. (C-in-C W.A. 1134/7) My 1134. Correct position is 49° 42'N, 8° 18'W at 0725/7 (C-in-C W.A. 1241/7) to SALVONIA Your 1241. Tanker's back broken. No hope of salvage. (RESTIGOUCHE 1525/7 to C-in-C W.A.)
MANISTEE	50° N, 10° 15'W. S/m now shelling ship. (Valentia Radio 1224/7) S/m disguised as Fishing Smack with sail. (MANISTEE 1514/7) MANISTEE later reported that s/m had submerged (A.S.W.D. 306)
BISSEN	Swedish 1514 tons torpedoed in (?) 50° 6'N, 10° 23'W two miles (BROKE 2222/7 to C-in-C W.A.)
GUIDO	British. Left Plymouth 28/6. Reported from U.S.A. to have been sunk by U-boat. (I.C. 0504/40)

S/m's reported

0510	By a/c 61.08 N, 1.40 E. (A/c 269 Squdn. 0520/7)
1318	Reliable fix 50.00 N, 10° 15'W. BROKE ordered to attack (C-in-C W.A. 1342/7) Incercept (Land's End Radio 1301/7)
0120	55° 4'N. 10° 58'E. By a/c (H.Q.B.C. 1545/7)

Estimated U/B dispositions

2 in Western Approaches.
1 W. of Barra, Hebrides, homeward bound
1 N. of Hebrides homeward bound
1 N. of Shetlands, homeward bound
1 in 61° 8'N, 1° 40'E. at 0515/7 course 10° (D.D.I.C. 1317/7)

0510	By a/c of 269 Sqdn., 61.08 N, 1.40 E. Dropped 250 lb. bombs which overshot astern by 50 yards, and a further bomb as s/m was sub-merging which overshot ahead by about 30 yards. Remained ove r area for 65 minutes but s/m not again sighted. (Donibristle 0835/7)

War Diary

7.7.40.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

EAST INDIES

S/m's reported

2030	28.46 N, 48.52 E. 264° Bushire 112'. Italian U-Boat reported. A/c searched, no result. (I.C. 0505/40)

War Diary

8.7.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

There is possibility that enemy will use smoke to cover landing operations. Smoke may, under favourable meteorological conditions, be projected from land to a range of about 100 miles.

All H.M.Ships at sea in North Sea and Channel between 053 N. and 048:30 N. East of 6 W. should report any unusual fog or appearance of cloud, on the surface, observed.
(A.C.N.S.H. 2006/8).

3 Dutch Army Officers landed at Yarmouth from a small boat yesterday report as follows -

German preparations in Holland for invasion of England are obvious and German slogan is "London on 15th July". Every craft that can be made capable of making the crossing is expected to start on 11th July, 1½ million men being transported in various small craft. A very large number of parachute troops in Holland continually practising. Large quantities of troops are to be airborne and special underground starting places complete with runaways have been constructed. Planes have been specially constructed to land in small places i.e. - size of Football ground.

Plan for invasion is launching of parachutist attack intended to withdraw troops from coast thus facilitating task of first landing parties which will come from all Ports from Norway to Belgium. After the first parties have secured a footing the main landing force will arrive in larger ships. Germans estimate total invading force at 3½ to 4 millions. (C. in C., Nore, 2216/8)

Ref. Operation "Purge"

Desirable that Masters of ships in East Coast Convoys should receive instructions regarding action if they find themselves near enemy transports barges or lighters approaching our coast from seaward. It is considered that in such cases full use should be made of the D.E.M.S. armament carried by a large proportion of ships sailing on the East Coast. In addition many have Bren or Lewis Guns. Propose that N.C.S.O.'s be told to inform masters at Convoy Conferences that any large body of merchant vessels approaching our east or south coast from seaward is likely to be enemy transports.

They should then manoeuvre their ships to ram the transports lighters or barges and make full use of all their guns.

After.....

War Diary

29.4.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

Trondheim Patrol

The patrol of 4 destroyers off Trondheim has been withdrawn.

Submarines

During her recent patrol TETRARCH was attacked with depth charges continuously from 1843/23 until about 0800/24, and it was not until 2150/24 that she was able to surface after having been submerged for 43 hours.

UNITY has been sunk in collision with a merchant vessel off the Tyne.

Air

Owing to poor visibility none of the tasks planned for the night 28/29 were carried out.

Enemy Air Activity

Usual meteorological flight took place over the North Sea this morning in the direction of Orkneys and Shetlands. Other air activity was confined to Norway and Denmark. Further reports of transport activity between Denmark and Germany and Stavanger, Oslo, and Christiansand South. A reconnaissance and weather flight was reported up the Norwegian coast early in the morning. There have been further reports of bombing in the Molde, Aandalsnes and Aalesund area.

War Diary

8.7.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

After inflicting all damage possible they should move away from the invasion area and continue their voyage.

It would be the duty of the Escort vessels if in company to identify ships sighted and indicate their enemy character by opening fire on them. (C. in C., Nore 2240/8 to C. in C., Rosyth).

War Diary

29.4.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

Casualties - Warships

POWEY with a homeward bound convoy from Gibraltar was damaged in collision early 29/4, west of Ushant.

UNITY was sunk in collision with S.S. ATLE JARN off the Tyne at 1915 in low visibility. One officer and 3 ratings are missing, but may be alive in the submarine. The wreck has not yet been located.

Sinkings of enemy transports etc.

ROBERT LEY, 27,288 tons is reported from Rotterdam to have been sunk in Skagerrak by mine or torpedo during the night 12/13 April. SAYN (2321 tons) and another are reported sunk by mines in the mouth of the Dollart.

Movements

VALIANT)
GLORIOUS) To sail 1500 today and R.V. with ARK ROYAL in 62° N., 04° W., at 1100/30. On conclusion of operation VALIANT to rejoin ARK ROYAL. (C. in C., H.F. 1148/29).

WARWICK Regret must be employed on essential escort duty to Norwegian waters. (D.C.D. (H) 1715/29 to C. in C., W. App).

Submarines Positions 0600/30. (D.C., 2009/29).

War Diary

8.7.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Disposition of Fleet.

My 1232/5 and your 1450/5. Both on account of possible German attack on Ireland from French ports and because a ship may be required to intercept JEAN BART if she tries to escape to Brest it is considered essential to have one 8" Cruiser in the Clyde. (V.C.N.S. 1359/8 to C. in C., H.F.)

Your 1852/7. Destroyers could not be fully maintained at Dover if SANDHURST was withdrawn. M.T.B.'s are entirely dependent on her at present for all services as also is any submarine stationed at Dover. (V.A. Dover 1401/8 to Adty.)

Movements

Submarines

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/9. TRIAD TAKU for Havet TETRARCH vicinity Q S M F 0850 TRIBUNE SEALION vicinity X Z T A 3000 and P C M F 2000 respectively proceeding on surface to Rosyth. PORPOISE STURGEON vicinity X Z M F and Y Z S C 4040 respectively proceeding on surface to Blyth. SUNFISH SALMON vicinity X Z M F 4000 and P C M F 0040 respectively proceeding on surface to P C M F 5525 and P C M F 4030 respectively. SEAWOLD C1 SPEARFISH A 5 SWORDFISH H2. H 28 C P S C 5351 H 49 Dover Strait L 26 exercising West of Hoy. TRUANT T G V D 4040 proceeding on surface to relieve TRIAD. H 44 leaves Harwich P M for H 2. WILK leaves Rosyth P M North-Eastward CLYDE leaves Dundee 2100 to relieve TAKU. (V.A.S. 1949/8)(D.C. 2213/8).

E-Boats

Indication of E-boats activity near North Foreland. (C. in C., Nore 0047/8).

E-boat may be operating S.S.W. of Portland (C. in C., W.A. 0051/8 to GERANIUM).

CAYTON WYKE sunk

A trawler presumed to be CAYTON WYKE was reported by South Goodwin L.V. to have sunk in her vicinity after an explosion at 0110/8. Trawler is considered to have been sunk by torpedo from E-boat of whose activity indications had been received. (V.A. Dover, 0330/8).

My 0330. Trawler lost confirmed as CAYTON WYKE. (V.A. Dover 1014/8 to Adty.)

War Diary

29.4.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Sickle Rations — Sickle Force has rations until May 1 only. Land what you can in time available. (D. of P. to GLASGOW 1535/29).

Christiansand North — Part of town still on fire. Immediate help necessary. (Christiansand North 0926/29). Report (A.3) that Christiansand North is burning and that Germans have landed there today. (S.N.O., Molde, 1545/29).

AUCKLAND — To proceed Aandalsnes with all despatch. (C. in C., H.F., 1238/29).

Dombas Bombing — Paget requests immediate fighter support to counter enemy's low bombing in Dombas area which threatens safety of his whole force. (Aalesund 1344/29). Regretted unable to comply in existing circumstances. (Air Min., 1920/29).

Aandalsnes Bombing — Heavy bombing on Aandalsnes. Ammunition nearly expended. (FLEETWOOD, 2120/29).

Air Protection — In view of continuous enemy aircraft activity during days at Aandalsnes resulting in serious interference with disembarkation, question of long range fighter patrol over this part is of great importance. (Sickle, 1455/29).

Dutch Coast

Sweep — By Admiral Nord as far as the Texel tonight (V.A., Dover, 1130/29). Operation is postponed 24 hours owing to fog. (V.A., Dover, 1451/29).

Submarines

CASABIANCA — Patrol report - no enemy warships or merchant ships sighted etc. (CASABIANCA, 0350/29).

TRIDENT — To operate at discretion in Western entrance to Bjorne Fiord. (R.A.S. 0602/29)

War Diary

8.7.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats (Contd.)

Cherbourg — Five E-Boats 130 feet in Napoleon III Basin. (PDUI 0015/8).

Air

British Air Activity

At 0555/8 in 56:40 N., 7:20 E. one Danish fishing smack bombed and seen settling by stern. (Donibristle 0910/8).

At 0602/8 in 56:50 N., 7:20 E. another Danish smack bombed and smoke seen rising amidships. (Donibristle 0910/8).

Willemsoord — 1 M/V bombed at 0255/8. Result unknown. (I.C. 0505/40).

Barges attacked at Goringham, Papendracht, Lakkerkirk, Zwolle, Weesp, Zwolle, and Zuyder Zee between 0850/8 and 1538/8 (H.Q.B.C. 0400/9).

Wilhelmshaven — 0020/8 to 0050/8. Dockyards bombed and bursts observed. (H.Q.B.C. 1835/8).

Swedish Destroyers — Swedish Adty. report their 4 destroyers and Oiler CASTOR bombed by British Bomber at 0608/8 No damage or casualties. (N.A. Stockholm 1841/8 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

HASTINGS — My 0700 (Convoy Arena). Enemy aircraft bombing. No hits (HASTINGS 0710/8).

Fighters being sent to Convoy Arena (Rosyth W/T 0704/8).

Portland — At 0638/8 six bombs dropped inside Harbour. No damage or casualty. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0742/8).

FOXGLOVE — 4 bombs. No damage. (FOXGLOVE 0920/8) 24' S.E. of Portland (I.C. 0506/40).

War Diary

29.4.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Troop Convoys.

F.S.3 — To R.V. and proceed to Narvik with BELLEROPHON and LYCAON (C. in C. H.F. 0958/29). Oiler SEPIA to join this convoy, details to take (C. in C., H.F. 1731/29, 1822/29).

F.S.2 — Arriving R.V. 0230/30. (WITCH to F.O., Narvik, 1959/29).

T.M.I. — Route (R.A.D. H.F., 2029/29).

F.P.8 and F.S. 5 — Routes. (C. in C., W.A., 1635/29).

F.P. Three A. — For Narvik area. EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA (British A.A. Guns crews etc.) VILLE D'ALGER, COLOMBIE, MONARCH OF BERMUDA (2 battalions Foreign Legion) to leave Clyde 30/4 (D.O.D.(H), 1555/29).

Norwegian Forces

G.H.Q. — I am at Holaker one third of way between Dombas and Lesja with C. in C. Paget 4 km. E. of me. (Norway H.Q. 0956/29).

HOME COMMANDS

Air (Contd.)

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

EASTWOOD — British (1551 tons) London to Hartlepool, bombed 1' N. of 20 D. Buoy at 0716/8. One hit, leaking slightly, no casualties. Entering Hartlepool. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1015/8).

Northbound Convoy FN 16 — My 1143. Being attacked by Fighters 329° Flamborough Head 15'. (STORK 1144/8) Enemy aircraft bombing in 54:02 N., 0:9 W. (KASHMIR 1204/8).

SHELDRAKE — Bombed in 54:0 N., 1:0 E. No damage. (SHELDRAKE 1300/8).

Channel Coastal Convoy OA — Enemy aeraft attacking an even-numbered Convoy, position Folkestone. (BRAZEN 1505/8). Position 52:56 N., 1:9 E. (VIMY 1514/8). 3 formations of 9 each bombed OA convoy. One ship damaged returning to Dover. (BRAZEN 1536/8 to N.O.I.C. Dover).

14 aircraft bombing in 040° Hythe. No hits. (VIACIOUS 1510/8) CORUNDUM, British 929 tons, hit, but reached Dover. (D.S. 309).

Mining

Zeebrugge — Six Magnetic mines laid during night 8/9. (D.S. 309).

At 1435/8 a mine sighted in 62:21 N. 1:08 E. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 0045/9 to Adty.)

Minelaying during night 8/9 suspected at Rosyth, Aberdeen, Middlesborough, Humber Entrance, Deal, and Thames Estuary. The Tees has been re-opened; but Amble, Newhaven, and the Tyne-Blyth Inshore Channel remain closed. (I.C. 0506/40).

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British Air Activity.

Shetlands	A/A defences of aerodromes to be increased. (Air Min., 1816/29).
Reconnaissance Aalborg Aerodrome	Abandoned owing to weather. (H.Q.B.C. 1830/29)
GLORIOUS	1 Heinkel Float Plane shot down and crashed (GLORIOUS, 1909/29).

Enemy Air Activity.

CARLISLE	Shadowed, Namsos. (CARLISLE, 0427/29).
BITTERN	Shadowed, Namsos. (BITTERN, 0700/29).
FLEETWOOD	Shadowed PFJV 0030 (FLEETWOOD 1155/29).
Aandalsnes	Bombing (1219/29) 1339/29, 28 bombs, 1 near miss, starboard fuel tank leaking 1904/29. Heavy bombing on Aandalsnes, ammunition nearly expended. (FLEETWOOD, 2120/29).
Molde	Bombing (Molde W/T, 1055/29, 1145/29).
GLASGOW	Bombed by two enemy aircraft 296 PFFU 15. (1852/29).
FRESNO CITY	Heavily bombed, damaged, am alongside pier off Hoo Island T.O.O. 1100. (Intercept by BITTERN, 1437/29).

Air Bases

Position regarding air bases would appear to be as follows:-

Kjeller (Oslo), understood to be temporarily out of use, 27/4.
Sola (Stavanger), now reported unusable and irreparable.
Vaernes (Trondheim), considerable damage done all hangars destroyed.

(continued)

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Canal South Furnes packed with Barges for 10 miles. River Lek 3' E. of Rotterdam 1305/8 about 20 Barges moored. River Mann, S. of Gordingham, about 40 Barges in basins and more in River. At Papendrecht 1300/8 about 30 very large barges. At Lekkerkirk 1325/8, 24 large barges moored. At Weesp, 7' S.E. of Amsterdam, 1515/8 about 30 barges moored. (H.Q.B.C. 0400/9).

Hook — At 0700/8 a stationary vessel, believed destroyer 5' N.E. of Hook and half a mile off shore. (H.Q.B.C. 0400/9)

51:2 N. 2:10 E. at 2220/8, one M/V about 2000 tons, aground. Aircraft report. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0205/9 and 1810/8).

Trondheim — At 1450/8, one cruiser thought of HIPPER class, 2 destroyers, 3 oilers, 4 M.Vs and 2 armed trawlers. (Donibristle 1926/8).

Tonning — At 0105/8 two ships, possibly Warships, with 2 searchlights each. (H.Q.B.C. 1835/8).

Texel — At 2212/8 10' W. of Texel, five M.Vs and what was thought to be one destroyer. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0325/9).

The Naze — 6 minesweepers 8' W. of the Naze a.m. 8th. (I.C. 0506/40)

Aalborg — 6 M.Vs, 400 to 500 ft. long, moored to S. bank of Osterhaven. 3 M.Vs and 15 barges moored to N. Bank, and 16 aircraft and 1 seaplane at Fabrik Mole. (H.Q.C.C. Recd. 1359/9).

6 minesweepers bearing 310° 2 miles from 58° N. 6:50 E. Course 120°. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn. 0710/8) (R.A.S. 0914/8).

Brest — CONDORCET at anchor in centre of Bay. 4 destroyers moored off Quay at 0500. Several small M.Vs at anchor outside Harbour. 3 submarines. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0845/8). One 12,000 ton warship beside mole (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1005/8).

1 cruiser, 2 destroyers, 3 tankers, 4 M.Vs at 63:20 N., 10:25 E. (Aircraft 254 Sqdn. 1400/8) All at anchor (Aircraft 254 Sqdn. 1425/8).

7 destroyers bearing 180:10 from 33:18 N. 19:45 E. Course 340° (Flying Boat L.5803. 1500/8).

War Diary

29.4.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity

Air Bases (continued)	Bomoen (near Voss), enemy reported to have captured this and started to use aerodrome 27/4. Lademoden (near Trondheim), enemy reported to be constructing new air base. (I.C., 0435/40).
Attack by liquid ammonia	Suggesting that eye shields should be supplied for personnel of auxiliaries, merchant ships and fishing vessels, in exposed positions (C. in C., H.F. 1447/24 Recd. 1025/29).

Mining

Operation Z.M.A.	Plan 1, complete (IVANHOE 2330/29).
East Coast Mine Barrier	Serial No. 10. Line of mines (position given) is about to be laid. Will be referred to as B.S.1. (D.D.O.D.(M) 1739/29 A. Mge. 483 A.2).
Sweeping Reports	Affected by fog (Cdr. I.C. Sheerness 1801/29, V.A. Dover, 2006/29).
BORDE	Operating with trawlers for about 2 weeks in area would to Sheringham. (C. in C., Nore, 1131/30).
"Gardening"	1 sqdn. Hampdens to be fitted. (Air Min., 1440/29).

War Diary

8.7.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Owing to the increased danger of aircraft attacks on Channel Ports (a) only essential shipping should be retained in these ports. (b) Loading and unloading of ships should be carried out with as little delay as possible, (D.O.D.H. 2214/8 to C. in C.'s)

Weather

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea	S.W. or W. light to moderate in S. Light and variable in N.	Cloudy with occasional rain.	Moderate to good. Local mist in North.
Horns Reef	S. or S.W. moderate.	Cloudy showers.	Mainly good.
Channel	W. light.	Fair to cloudy except for rain in extreme East.	Mainly good.
Western Approaches	W.N.W. light.	Fair to Cloudy.	Very good.
Norwegian Coast	(No information available).		

War Diary

29.4.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Convoy Route Now appears to run 350° from the Skaw. Swedish coast lights and the light at the Skaw are burning at full brilliancy, but most of the Norwegian lights are extinguished. (I.C., 0435/40).

Surface Unit An enemy surface unit was located at 0125/29 in approx. 57:15 N., 10:45 E. (I.C., 0435/40, D.C. 0248/29).

German Trawler Captured, description. Two concealed torpedo tubes etc. (D.C., 2334/29).

Losses ROBERT LEY, electric motor ship, 27,288 tons, which was used for official "Strength Through Joy" cruisers reported from Rotterdam to have been sunk in the Skagerrak by torpedo or mine night 12/13 April.

SAYN, 2321 tons, and another German ship unnamed are reported to have been mined and sunk in mouth of Dollart.

(Lloyds. Rotterdam, 1756/29. O.I.C.).

M.V. attacked about 3000 tons laden, in 60:20 N., 5:15 E., one bomb fell 10 ft away, estimate holed (Donibristle 1145/29 1605/29, 1200/29).

9 Merchant Ships Report (Donibristle, 1205/29). R.A.F. asked to attack them, but regret no aircraft available 30/4 (C. in C., H.F. 1136/29, C. in C., Rosyth, 1750/29, 2208/29).

War Diary

8.7.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

CORFU

To act as escort to S.L. 39 and a relief to proceed to Greenock. (C. in C., S.A. 1009/8)

RICHELIEU

RICHELIEU has been moved to a position alongside inner harbour where further Torpedo bomber attack is impossible, due to lack of water. I consider RICHELIEU to be definitely disabled. In view of this and because of this force is becoming increasingly liable to damage from attacks by shore based aircraft with little corresponding chance of inflicting damage on large destroyer moored near Merchant ships. I propose to proceed Freetown to replenish oil and petrol, leaving patrol after last reconnaissance tonight Monday. Request disposition DORSETSHIRE, AUSTRALIA and MILFORD.

As an alternative I could attack RICHELIEU with all aircraft and 250 bombs at dawn tomorrow Tuesday, but this would only effect superficial damage less than that of 8" shell and would cause needless casualties in her and probably in surrounding merchant ships. It would be tantamount to bombing port and would do no more lasting damage to RICHELIEU than has already been done.

(HUGHES, 1710/8)

Add to my 1710/8 I intend to detach MILFORD to Freetown after dark tonight, Monday.

(HUGHES, 1736/8)

Convoy W.S.1.

Escorted by CUMBERLAND. Time of leaving Freetown and route. (C. in C., S.A. 1841/8)

War Diary

28.6.1940.
Friday

FRENCH FLEET

Dakar

Admiral Dakar has refused permission for DORSETSHIRE to enter port and has refused

War Diary

8.7.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Enemy Reports

2 CAVOUR class battleships and 4 destroyers were sighted 185 miles E of Malta at 0515 today course 180° (Note. The course from this position to Benghazi is 160°) (I.C.0505/40) (PHOENIX, 0515/8, 0645/8)

Air reconnaissance of Augusta yesterday reported 6 large ships, heavy cruisers or larger, 4 or 5 light cruisers and a lot of auxilliary craft still at Augusta. (I.C. 0505/40)

Aircraft reported 6 cruisers and 7 destroyers course 330° speed 20 knots in 33.18 N., 19.45 E., (approx 60 miles north of Benghazi at 1500/8) (I.C. 0506/40)

Operations Planned

Your 1720/7 to C. in C., Med. Noted. If, however you can see your way to carry out a bombardment of objectives such as the naval base or Elmas air station at Cagliari it would greatly enhance the moral effect. (1st. S.L. to V.A. (H) 0055/8)

Admty. 0055/8. Owing to minefields, shore defences, shape of harbour and lack of time to prepare a considered plan, I do not consider results likely to be achieved are commensurate with the risks, unless there are very strong political reasons for bombardment. (S.O. (H) to Admty., 0815/8)

RORQUAL
PHOENIX

To proceed to positions on line 160° from Taranto, RORQUAL as far north as possible, PHOENIX south of 37° 30' N. (C. in C., Med. 1543/8)

Enemy (i) Italo-Spanish military talks July discussed plans for Italian Gibraltar from Spanish territory.

(ii) German-Italian operations in Mediterranean before 13th July.

agents preparing risings in itory to coincide with these (S.O.I. Alexandria 1534/8)

HOME COMMANDS

MARIT MAERSK (Danish)
Thursday
27.6.1940

Hope to make an attempt to cut out M.S. MARIT MAERSK from Eleusis Bay Tuesday night 9th assuming extra tonnage ... y required. Ship will try to proceed to anchor there and if armed guard can be obtained from Oiler or T.B.D. then I would like some of Athens volunteers to land and return. Remaining 5 or 6 southbound proceed to Alexandria hoping to join H.M. Forces. Operation offers chances of success. (N.A., Athens to C. in C., Med., 2104/8)

War Diary

8.7.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- Air.

Raids on Malta

Malta Air Intelligence Report from 1835/7 to 1800/8 L.T. 1835/7 L.T., 5 planes approached Grand Harbour. Fighters up, raiders turned back. At L.T. 3 ENemy fighters and 1 bomber approached the island. Engaged by fighter and turned back no bombs dropped no damage no casualties. Aircraft r/c to 265 miles E.S.E. of Malta p.m./8 failed to report any enemy forces. (H.Q., Malta, 1635/8)

Air Attack

Enemy aircraft bombing in position 328°, 34°N 25°E., 33 miles, based onn fix obtained at 1200 (Block 1, Mediterranean Station 1410/8)

East Indies

Merchant Ships

Admty. 2325/7, effort to be made to release TABARISTAN at Diego Suarez. TABARISTAN was diverted from Diego Suarez and arrived Mombasa 7/7. British ZAMBEZIA and Norwegian DRAMMENSFJORD are, however, believed to be in Vohemar and Tulear respectively. (C. in C., E.I., 06442/8)

CARAIBE

My 1142/7 para 4. Request that Admty. will inform French C. in C., Far East of circumstances because Captain of CARAIBE has asked me to pass a message from him to his Admiral on the subject and I feel it preferable for the French Admiral to be informed first by the British Authorities. Pending Confirmation CARAIBE's message is being held up. (C. in C., E.I., 07252/8)

CARAIBE's Crew

Admty. 2025/7 and my 1142/7. If French ship BERNARDIN DE ST PIERRE is released from Cape town request that you will if possible make arrangements with Master to call at Mombasa and repatriate crew of disarmed CARAIBE from there to Diego Suarez. French Authorities Madagascar believed to be still ignorant of disarming of CARAIBE and I consider it desirable to keep the master also ignorant of the facts if it can be managed. (C. in C., E.I., 14312/8., to N.O.I.C., Simonstown, etc.

NIVOSE

My 1509/5. If NIVOSE not sighted by dark 10/7 CARTHAGE is to proceed to Durban, to arrive a.m. 15/7. (C. in C., E.I. 07473/8)

War Diary

27.6.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.
Enemy reported to be buying all available private small vessels Motors in Norway. A.Z.
(Acting-Consul Malmo 1221/27 to D.N.I.)

Calais

P.D.U. Sortie shows some activity in Calais Gare Maritime but no shipping present.
(P.D.U.I. 1857/27 to N.I.D.)

War Diary

8.7.40.
Monday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Dakar

4 depth charges were exploded simultaneously under RICHELIEU's stern at 0245Z + 1 in 7 fathoms. Torpedo attack with 6 aircraft carried out at 0500. Result very difficult to assess due to darkness and intense A/A fire. Torpedoes seen to start straight but due to shallow water it is doubtful whether they reached target. All aircraft returned safely.

Suggest Consul General or late B.N.L.O. Dakar may be able to learn extent of damage. I am searching for motor boat keeping RICHELIEU under aerial observation. (HERMES 0645/8 to Adty.)

I have no further information from Dakar except a broadcast from Dakar W/T station at 0441 of which following is a translation. Begins. I give a formal order to resist with ferocious energy against all English attack. In view of the probability of attack I order all commanding Officers and service men to strive to the utmost to counter the English enemy under these circumstances. Marine A.O.F. Ends.
(C. in C., S.A. 0650/8 to Adty.)

My 0645/8. DORSETSHIRE reports hearing five distinct explosions between 0500 and 0515. (HERMES 0815/8 to Adty.)

Aircraft report RICHELIEU appears to be down by stern with large quantity of oil round her. (HERMES 0930/8 to Adty.)

All ships are being attacked by French Bombers (HERMES 0957/8 to Adty.)

Your 0930/8. Good, but further attacks should be carried out and report made. (1st S.L. 1514/8 to HERMES).

RICHELIEU has a slight list to port and I am certain from photographs and numerous observers reports she is down by stern. All torpedoes were fired at her starboard side. Have recovered my motor boat. (HERMES 1427/8 to Adty.)

War Diary

29.4.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik

Allied Troops — My 1032/27. Request Foreign Legion be sent Vaags Fiord and Poles to Tromso. (F.O., Narvik, 1704/29).

Local Defences — Requesting floating piers, mines and heavy A/A artillery, for Vaags Fiord, Lavangs Fiord, Herstad, and Bellangen. (F.O., Narvik, 1459/29).

German Aircraft Aerodromes — Reply to telegram 98 (to Norwegian H.Q. from N.I.D.) :- German aircraft landing Narvik Area on Hartivigrann, East Bjerkvik. Bardu Aerodrome, 2 kms. west of Bordu Ross 69:18 N., 18:31 E., is in our hands. Probably suitable for wheeled aircraft. (Norway, H.Q. 1025/29).

Namsos

BITTERN — C.S. 20s 0401/29. BITTERN must provide A/A protection to Namsos during daylight hours. (D.O.D.(H) 1112/29).

STORK — To relieve BITTERN. (C. in C., H.F. 1242/29)

HAZEL — Has been sent back to Namsos (F.O.C. 20th D.F. 0547/29 to WOLVERINE).

Bangsund, Spillum — Your 1824/28 (re damage to piers at Namsos). Consider navigational risk at Bangsund only acceptable for trawlers with local knowledge not for destroyers. Suggest possible suitable pier at Spillum. Your 0519/29 first night is 1/2 May (F.O.C. 1 C.S., 0719/29 to 20th C.S.).
Your 0719. Trawler making reconnaissance Bangsund now.
Spillum Pier useless. (F.O. 20th C.S., 0922/29).

Communication breakdown — As there are now no shore naval wireless communications here, all messages for ships at sea and England will be passed via Catterick and War Office. This depends on Namsos power supply. (N.O.I.C. Namsos, 2229/29).

War Diary

8.7.40.
Monday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Alexandria

Adty's 1234/6 and your 1827/7. It is assumed that you have not given a guarantee not to seize the ships. (1st S.L. 0108/8 to C. in C. Med.)

General

French submarines submerged or unescorted on the surface are to be treated as hostile.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1357/8).

War Diary

29.4.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Namsos

Mosjoen — Army request a party of 50 with Rations and Ammunition be sent from Namsos to Mosjoen by destroyer or fast craft at earliest opportunity. (D.O.D.H. to C.S. 20, 1621/29 JANUS to be used for this. (C. in C. H.F., 1903/29).

Movements — WOLVERINE, etc., French destroyers, CARLISLE, and BITTERN. A/S patrol being maintained in Namsos Fiord while ships are away. (C.S.20, 0401/29).

Wharf destroyed — Wooden wharf Namsos destroyed by air bombing yesterday. Enemy air activity continuing by day suggests impending destruction of stone wharf, after which loading Namsos impossible. Duration of night decreasing rapidly. (BITTERN, 2232/29).

Aandalsnes, Aalesund, Molde.

ROLLER — Instructing FLEETWOOD on arrival to obtain instructions regarding Roller from N.O.I.C. Aandalsnes given to him in my 1845/27. (BLACK SWAN) 0425/29.

BLACK SWAN — Left Aandalsnes 0315. Main quay still intact and railway functioning locally. More damage to town 28/4. (BLACK SWAN 0315/29).

FLEETWOOD — Not yet arrived. No wireless link here or sea A/A defence. (N.O.I.C. Aandalsnes, 0835/29). A/A ship not yet arrived (C.O.S., Aandalsnes, 1200/29).

Air attack — On Molde, enemy bombing (Molde 0840/29, 0911/29. My 1055 and 1145. Molde in flames. No communication with Aandalsnes and improbable that is can be regained. Fire spreading possibility W.T. station may have to be evacuated. (N.O.I.C. Aandalsnes, 1432/29).

War Diary

9.7.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

1. Following from reputable Norwegian just arrived from Oslo graded C two, (a) Convoys arrive at Oslo daily escorted motor boats and aircraft. Inference from other sources is that these convoys come from North Jutland Port. Some of them now large vessels (b) Large vessel SEVEN FJORD lying Oslo. VENUS VAGMUR and other large passenger vessels requisitioned for invasion scheme now lying Bergen. (c) Norwegian Coastal trade is re-established Oslo as far as Bergen (d) Appreciable Dutch Norwegian trade about to start probably via Kiel Canal (e) German Norwegian trade increasing number of Norwegian ships now employed.

2. From another source D 4 (a) 35 to 30 German armed trawlers now lie at Oslo Fiord (b) Austrian troops have been reported Northward bound to Narvik area. (N.A. Stockholm. 1726/9 to D.N.I.)

Unusual Smoke, fog or cloud.

Any unusual appearance of smoke, fog or cloud on the surface of the water is to be reported forthwith. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0130/9)

Restrictions on Fishing Vessels

Until further orders no fishing vessels or other small craft are to be at sea within 15 miles of the coast between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise. Vessels disregarding this order may be fired on. N.O.I.C's pass to coastguards. (C. in C., W.A. 1311/9)

Liverpool Area

Your 2052/3 (Action against Tank-carrying Rafts) it is not considered that such action is feasible in the Liverpool Sub-Command. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1737/9 to Adty.)

Ships encountered E. of Mine Barrier

When surface craft are operating to Eastward of barrier minefield, it would be of great advantage if they could be instructed that any warships or merchant ships met, but not S/Ms may be regarded as enemy and sunk without challenging first. Request permission to issue this order in the Nore Command. (C. in C., Nore, 2124/9 to Adty.)

Southwold Harbour Blocked

It is understood that Southwold harbour has been blocked. Request you will report circumstances under which this was carried out and whether naval authorities agreed with the necessity for it. (A.C.N.S. H. 1238/9 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

War Diary

28.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

Sloops — STORK, LONDONDERRY and GRIMSBY to exchange with 3 of the sloops on Norwegian Coast as mutually arranged with Cs in C. (D.O.D.(H), 1437/28).

18th C.S. — Have ships enough fuel to remain at sea till completion of operation May 4? If not return with all despatch and refuel. (C. in C., H.F., to F.O.C. 18th C.S. 0922/28).

Scapa — Your 1145/27. Station colliers being increased from 2 to 3, and an additional motor boat provided. No additional distilling ship is available. (D. of P. 1249/28 to R.A., Scapa).

Submarines — Positions 0600/29 (D.C., 2051/28, V.A.S., 1829/28).
Orders to PORPOISE and ORZEL (Capt.S,2, 1126/28).

LYCAON — with 12 Bofors guns to be sailed for Scapa as soon as guns' crews have embarked (D. of P. 0257/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

War Diary

9.7.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Redistribution of Destroyers

In order tha Force K may operat on Italian Coast it is important that they should have a total of 12 destroyers of long endurance. It is under consideration to effect this as follows:
A. Five V. and W's of 13th D.F. to proceed to Dover.
B. Three G's and two B's to join Home Fleet.
C. BURZY, FORTUNE, FIREDRAKE, ECHO and DIANA to proceed to Gibraltar.
D. Request your remarks. (1st S.L. 1955/9 to C. in C., H.F.)

Re Adty. 1955/9. This will leave Home Fleet with only four destroyers fitted with TSDS at present. I do not consider this sufficien if the Fleet has to proceed south.
This will make nine different classes of destroyers in the Home Fleet. This continual shifting round of ships in the Fleet makes it very difficult for Officers to keep up to date with orders particular to the Fleet in which they find themselves. Some if not most officers of 3G and 2B's will know little of anything of Fleet work and their Captains (D) will know little or nothing of them. There is the matter of team work to be considered too. Long endurance is also required in the Home Fleet and as you know lack of endurance in destroyers has been one of my bugbears ever since war started. DIANA needs a refit. (C. in C. H.F. 2303/9 to 1st S.L.)

Movements

DIANA to search for Blenheim aircraft in distress. 59° 14'N 1° 4'E at 1120. Wick Radio 1227/9, C. in C., Rosyth, 1234/9)

Submarines

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/10.
TAKU D.N.L.Z. 0010 proceeding on surface to Rosyth. TRIAD S.B.M.F. 3050 TRUANT S.S.T.A. 1000 proceeding on surface to S.S.M.F. 4530 TETRARCH S.M.F. 0740. SUNFISH P.C.M.F. 4030 SEAWOLF C3. TRIBUNE SEALION T.G.V.D.5030 and J.Z.V.D. 0830 respectively, both proceeding on surface to Rosyth. CLYDE JZGR 1020 proceeding on surface to relieve TRIAD. PORPOISE T.G.W.T. 1020 proceeding on surface to Blyth STURGEON N.L.W.T. 3004 proceeding submerged to Blyth. SPEARFISH A5 SWORDFISH H2 leaving p.m. for Blyth H 44 L.S.T.A. 3835 H 23 C.P.S.C. 5351 H to Dover Strait L 26 exercising West of Hoy. WILK leaves Rosyth p.m. North Eastward. SEVERN escorted by WHITE BEAR leaves Rosyth 0800 for North Channel (V.A.S. 1848/9) (D.C. 2126/9)

29.4.40.
Monday.

BAR PLAIN.

ARCTIC.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.
Home Commands.

ANTONIO DELFINO Captain of s.s. SEAGERMAK, scuttled on 14/4, stated be understood ANTONIO DELFINO was at Murmansk, and that he thought German trawlers were fishing in Kara Sea (C. in C. H.F. 1116/39).

Mediterranean.

DELOS. Arrived Batum 25/4. (I.C., 0435/40)

War Diary

9.7.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

1046/9 — 50° 47' 0° 47'E One E-Boat with Blue Hull. course W 25 knots, aircraft report (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1450/9)

1300/9 — Five E-Boats proceeding Westward along French Coast towards Cherbourg (C. in C., Portsmouth 2116/9 to SALADIN)

1800/9 — Four E-Boats minesweeping in Entrance of Boulogne (D.S. 310)

1358/9 — Six E-Boats 15' S.W. of Boulogne. Course 240° (I.C. 0507/40)

Air- British Air Activity

Wilhelmshaven Destroyer set on fire. VON TIRPITZ attacked — At 0100/9 aircraft attacked four Warships, possibly Destroyers, 1½ miles E. of Wilhelmshaven. Two fires started in one Vessel. (T.H.I. 2005) 15 Hamptons attacked VON TIRPITZ between 2350/9 and 0205/10. Results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 1735/10 to Air Ministry)

Kiel Docks — Attacked between 0005 and 0115/9. Building slips straddled and large fires started. (T.H.I. (B.C) 2005)

Missing Aircraft — 4 or 5 Ansons leave Dyce 1715 to search to depth 150' on course 036 for missing Blenheim (C. in C., Rosyth 1702/9 to DIANA) Return to Scapa (C. in C., Rosyth 2204/9 to DIANA)

Enemy Air Activity

Portland, ARGEON hit — At 0158/9. seven bombs heard to drop across Chesil Beach, six in sea, no damage. At 0644 four bombs in Weymouth Bay. Greek ARGEON 5285 tons, hit, slight damage, no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1052/9 to Adty.)

Convoy Arena First Attack — Help Arena 240° 52° 2° 10 miles (HASTINGS 1332/9) Aircraft bombing (HASTINGS 1334/9) Fighters sent (C. in C., Nore 1339/9 to HASTINGS) 3 bombs, no hits (HASTINGS 1341/9) Six bombs on convoy. No hits. (BLACK SWAN 1353/9)

/Cardiff.....

EMPIRE DAFFODIL — (398 tons) arrived at Portland today. Reported she had been bombed and holed. (D.S. 311)

Home Commands

War Diary

9.7.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

2 Magnetic Mines exploded by HL Trawlers 270° Goodwin Fork Buoy one Cables and one at 024° North Goodwin Buoy six cables. (V.A. Dover 1851/9 to Adty.)

Newhaven, Amble, and the Tyne-Blyth Inshore Channel remain closed. (I.C. 0507/40)

Enemy Intelligence

Wilhelmshaven
TIRPITZ
SCHEER

Battleship TIRPITZ and Pocket-Battleship ADMIRAL SCHEER in the Bauhaven. Photographic R/C (I.C. 0507/40)

Bremen
EMDEN

An 8" Cruiser, presumably EMDEN completing. (I.C. 0507/40)

At 0603/9 in 57° N 5° 4'E one Fishing Smack lying at a Buoy. A/C report (Donibristle 0915/9)

Two M/V's at anchor 3½' South of Grimsby A/C report. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1222/9)

At 1047/9 in 50° 47' N 0° 52'E. 2 M/V's have to. Aircraft report (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1450/9)

At 1048/9 in 50° 57'N., 1° 1'E 6 minesweepers course 270, 5 knots A/C reports (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1450/9)

At 1248/9 in 50° 4' N 1° 4'E 6 minesweepers course 270, 5 knots A/C report (A.C.H.Q. 1450/9)

Wreck of large M/V close to Jaederens Point with lighters salving cargo. (SEALION 1630/9 to V.A.S.)

Bergen 6/7

12 M/V's, 250 to 400 ft, one large 500 ft. Tanker, one Wolf T.B. and two ex T.B. Tenders on 6th July. (P.D.U.I. 1850/9)

Boulogne

6 Flat-bottomed Boats, 2 Floating cranes, 2 seaplanes, and one or two Barges. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2035/9)

Norwegian Trade

See Defence of U.K.

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Aandalsnes

Operation Primrose (Capt. Denny)
(Gen. Morgan)

Primrose is landing

Your 1507/17. Reported 20-30 or 60 enemy a/c's fly over Aalesund very low every morning. W/T station has been bombed and put out of action. Primrose is being landed with all despatch. (BLACK SWAN 0100/18 to Adty.)

Adty. 1505/17. Consider it possible for CARLISLE and CURACOA and 2 destroyers to proceed direct to Aandalsnes to unload, one of each at a time.

Primrose should be landed all clear by time Sickle arrives (BLACK SWAN 0430/18).

(corrupt) D100. All personnel Aandalsnes now ashore. Anticipate A/A guns will be mounted by 0400/20. Am sailing AUCKLAND, BITTERN forthwith Aalesund to land 4 inch and personnel for them. Expected time of arrival 1430/18. Urgently required 10,000 rounds H.A. 2 pdr. pompom at Aandalsnes and I.S.L. and generator at Aalesund (BLACK SWAN 1000/18 to Adty.)

Your 0525/18. Am remaining at Aandalsnes to cover landing party until A/A guns are ready or A/A cruiser arrives. AUCKLAND ordered to remain at Aalesund to cover party there and act as W/T link. (BLACK SWAN 1200/18).

Aalesund W/T station and power plant at Tafjord need A/A protection. (This is W/T station for communication abroad) (BLACK SWAN 1245/18 to Adty.)

My 1505/17. S ips other than 2 sloops mentioned in para. 4 of my 1347/14 are to return to Rosyth as soon as possible (D.C.N.S. 1400/18 to C.S.2)

Re. operating a/c's from frozen lades (Squ. Ldr. Whitney - Straight 1438/18, 1935/18).

Audet's force (F.P. One)

3 battalions, 1 battery. Force is not specially organised for independent action. (D.C. 1933/18).

Aalesund party

Completed landing of 4 inch guns and personnel at Aalesund 1900 (AUCKLAND 2015/18 to BLACK SWAN).

War Diary

9.7.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS - Shipping

Adty. 1744/8 and 0017/9. It is considered that Coasters in convoy are more likely to attract air attack and to form a better target than if they are proceeding independently. An Attack in the Channel will probably be completed before fighters can answer a call from the escort. Suggested that Coasters should be sailed in pairs for life saving purpose and that destroyer escorts should be released for other duties. (V.A. Dover 1221/9 to C. in C., Nore.)

Your 1221/9. It is appreciated that a convoy may attract air attack more than ships proceeding independently but there are three good reasons for sailing ships in convoy with an escort viz:
(1) To keep the traffic together at night and ensure that it may readily be indentified by patrols.

(2) The R.A.F. maintain that they cannot provide any protection unless shipping is in Convoy.

(3) It is doubtful if ships will sail unless an escort is provided.

On balance therefore it is considered that the advantage of sailing in Convoy outweigh the disadvantages. (C. in C., Nore, 3138/9 to V.A. Dover.)

Suggested amendment of orders to Escort Vessels to effect that Ships in Convoy should remain with the Convoy unless otherwise ordered in event of enemy attack. (C. in C., Rosyth. 1114/9 to C. in C., Nore.)

Admiralty 1335/5 and 0042/6. Adoption of inshore route results in serious embarrassment to inshore patrols and renders convoys liable to attack by the latter furthermore it will be necessary to apply scheme for the extinction of coastal lights on most nights on account of the assistance which lights provide to aircraft making a landfall.

For these reasons request that channel convoys may be routed to keep well clear of the coast particularly during dark hours. (C. in C., V.A.. 1326/9 to Adty.)

/Arrangement.....

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Trondheim

Operation Hammer (continued)

SCHARNHORST — Heavy ship reported in Trondheim Fiord to be investigated by air reconnaissance (D.C. 1210/18 to C.S.18).

Situation ashore — Germans holding Trondheim with 2000 Austrian and Bavarian Alpine troops. No artillery. Seaplanes operating from frozen lake 5 miles S.E. Trondheim. Aandalsnes, Molde, Aalesund still in Norwegian hands. Molde has been bombed and Aandalsnes is closely watched owing to important railheads. (Information from pilot) (F.O.C.C.S. 1142/18).

A/c attack night 17/18 — Owing to bad weather no a/c (6 went) able to make observations. All a/c's except one jettisoned bombs. One s/m observed 58° 45'N, 1° 0'W 2010 heading North (H.Q.B.C. 0700/18)

No warships 5 M.V's in Trondheim, no a/c's at seaplane base, 3 M.V.'s 5 miles to S.W. 1440-1630 (a/c report) (Donibristle Rec. 0013/19)

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping, Contd.

Arrangement whereby C A Convoys are routed by N.C.S.O. Thames is unsatisfactory and causes endless signals and telephone calls between Southend, Methil, Chatham and Rosyth thereby further overloading these lines of communication. Now that Channel traffic has ceased the number of ships -starting from Thames will be small, as Convoy increases the further North it reaches. Ships in Thames will not remain longer than necessary for loading, sailing in F.N. Convoys irrespective of C.A. It is impossible to guarantee time of arrival off -May Island of F.N. and that position is not healthy for ships to be kept waiting in. With the restrictions and formations imposed upon the Convoy passing through North and West Areas it is essential that a conference be held so that escort, Commodore -and Masters may be fully conversant with what is expected of them and that last minute information can be passed to them. Most practicable solution is that C.A. Convoys should be run by C. in C., W.A. and routed by N.C.S.O. Methil. (C. in C., Rosyth 1831/9 to Adty.)

My 1732/28/6. Cancel para D. and substitute Homeward bound independent shipping is to be sailed from now onwards to arrive through Northern Approaches. Ships bound for East Coast ports as far south as the Thames are to be routed northabout through the Minches to Methil.

The English Channel is not to be used by ocean going shipping but for the present fast independent ships from the South may enter the Irish Sea by Western Approaches. (D.T.D. 1636/9 to C. in C's)

LAHTI

Finnish, from Gothenburg, was due off Rattray Head at 0400/9 (D.S. 310) Aircraft report no sign within 60' radious of Rattray Head. Air search continues. (C. in C., Rosyth 0644/9 to DILHA)

/French Shipping.....

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Trondheim

Operation Hammer

Situation	SHEFFIELD reports 7 seaplanes on Fiord no other air activity. Aerodrome camouflaged, difficult to distinguish. No signs of activity on aerodrome or a/c's. (C.S.18 1010/18 to Adty.)
FURIOUS to attack	Request you will consider using FURIOUS to attack Trondheim aerodrome continuously next week so as to prevent German reinforcements arriving by air (D.C.D.(H) 1305/18 to C-in-C H.F.)
Situation ashore	D. of P. 1556/18 to C.S.2, D.4.
R.M. Howitzers	2 - 3.7" howitzers earmarked for GUARDIAN are not to be embarked in GUARDIAN. 7 - 3.7" howitzers are to be got ready for immediate service and manned by R.M. Battery will embark 20/4 at Clyde or Rosyth (A.C.R.M. 1558/18 to C-in-C Rosyth).
IVANHOE ICARUS IMPULSIVE	are at your disposal for Operation Hammer, either with or without mines (1st S.L. 1639/18 to C-in-C H.F.)
Raid on enemy reinforcements	proposed see D.C.D.(H) 1713/18 to C-in-C H.F. in Operations (General).
	In order to stop supply ships reaching enemy in Trondheim ASHANTI and MOHAWK are to be sent immediately to establish patrol to north-westward of Cud. 62° 55'N, 6° 55'E. There are no British mines in area declared N.W. Husted 62° 57' 30"N, 7° 6'E but enemy ships may assume mines have been laid there. Destroyers may at discretion withdraw if subjected to heavy air attack (C-in-C H.F. 0046/19 to F.C.C. 18 C.S. Capt. D4).

War Diary

9.7.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME CONSULTS

Shipping. Contd.

French Shipping

Contraband control is being applied to all ports in French territories in Europe (including Corsica)

Cargoes for these ports are being dealt with as follows:-

(a) When a British, neutral or French ship comes voluntarily to a U.K. port the cargo is being requisitioned in order to free port from congestion. British and neutral owners of such cargoes may claim compensation in respect of goods of which they can prove ownership.

(b) At C.C. Bases or when a ship is sent to a United Kingdom port under armed guard the cargo is being put into Prize. British and Neutral owners of such cargoes may apply to the Procurator General for release of goods of which they can prove ownership.

The question of consignments from Japan which are still in Japanese ownership is receiving special consideration.
Under Secretary Dominion Affairs, 0930/9 to Govt. of Canada, Australia, etc.,)

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Namsos

Operations Maurice (Gen. de Wiart)

(C.S.18, D6, GLASGOW, SOUTHAMPTON, WX Convoy, MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, CURLEW, ARETHUSA, EMILE BERTIN, 2 transports)

Disembarkation of Phillips' 3rd Battalion.

Troops disembarked and stores unloaded from CHROBRY. Am sailing her for Scapa screened by Tritals until noon after which MATABELE will escort. Cdre. requests a second destroyer when available (Capt. D4, 0431/18 to C.S.18. 0807/18 to Capt. D4).

ASHANTI

leaving Novid Fiord 61° 42'N, 6° 20'E 0530/18 to join you Namsos area (F.O.C. 18C.S. 0615/18 to Capt. D4).

French transports arrive 2000/19

First 2 will not arrive Namsen Fiord before 2000/19 (C.S.18, 0655/18 to Capt. D4)

Your first 2 transports will enter Namsen Fiord 1945/19. Rendezvous. (C.S.18, 0831/18 to EMILE BERTIN).

Weather is improving. Carry on if conditions are suitable with you. (18th C.S. 0850/18 to ARDENT).

Your 1847 (should be 1842)/17 to F.O. Narvik. Address requests for reinforcements to me. We are working on a very small margin (C-in-C H.F. 0937/18 to C.S.18).

Capt. D4. 0431/18 and my 0807/18. In view of delay of French convoy, CHROBRY and escort are returning to Namsos tonight to complete unloading of stores. MATABELE proceeding to Skjel Fiord to refuel (C.S.18, 1147/18) Note. a small amount of stores had been left in CHROBRY when she sailed after disembarking Phillips 3rd Battalion.

Phillips Brigade landing completed

Gen. Wiart to W.O. Completed landing Phillips Brigade night 17/18 but could not unload all stores. Have just heard French do not come until 19/4. Navy has done splendidly (Capt. D4, 1113/18 to Adty.).

War Diary

9.7.1940.
Tuesday

WEATHER

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Wind S.W. or variable light or moderate	Good or Moderate	Wind backing S. and freshening. Visibility deteriorating.
Channel	S.W. Light or Moderate	Good in E. Moderate with local fog patches in W.	Strong S.W. wind. Visibility deteriorating in E.
Western Approaches	S.W. strong to gale.	Moderate.	Similar. Wind veering later & visibility improving.
Norms Reef Dutch Coast S.W. Norwegian Coast	Variable or S.W. light.	Moderate	Similar

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Narvik

Troops to land at Bergen

You are to proceed with troops to entrance of Bergen 68° 30'N 17°E arriving 1500/19. 15 fishing vessels under Comdr. Hopkinson will ferry your troops to shore. Then proceed to Sjelfiord and take such fuel as can be spared. PROTECTOR will accompany you to West Fiord (F.O. Narvik 1507/18 to VINDICTIVE)

C-in-C H.F. 1611/18. If an assault is contemplated another battleship will be sent to you (D.O.D.(H) /18 to F.O. Narvik)

Asking for indicator net to be laid at entrance to Skjel Fiord (D. of L.D. 1658/18 to F.O. Narvik).

Information

Am continuing Otofiord Patrol with ENCOUNTER Planes seen to drop over 18 parachutes near Bjgrkvik 68° 33'N, 17° 33'E 1500/18, ammunition or troops. 120 of German destroyers' crew captured by HARDY's crew now under charge of unarmed Norwegian police on point about 68° 23'N, 16° (?54')E. (Capt. D8 1637/18 to F.O. Narvik).

Re. Capt. D8 2314/17, watch on Ofot Fiord must not be relaxed (1st S.L. 1645/18 to F.O. Narvik)

Fuel

BRITISH LADY fuel expended. Another oiler urgently required. (PENELOPE 1740/18 to C-in-C H.F.)

Germans at Narvik

Your 1201/16 para. 8. Presence of Germans at Narvik is causing Swedish Govt. anxiety. They fear if Germans cross frontier we may follow and violate Swedish neutrality. If we do not follow Sweden must intern them and further strain relations with Germany. (D.N.I. 1848/18 to F.O. Narvik).

Indicator nets

Your 1628/18. PROTECTOR is on way to do so now. (F.O. Narvik 1935/18 to Adty.)

SOUTHAMPTON

Request SOUTHAMPTON may be sailed for Scapa at earliest possible date (C-in-C H.F. 1941/18 to F.O. Narvik).

War Diary

9.7. 1940.
Tuesday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Dakar.

RICHELIEU

(A) Your 1710/8 is not clear as to where RICHELIEU is berthed.

(B) Do you consider oil round RICHELIEU was due to damage or was she pumping out oil to lighten draught?

(C) Report all the evidence you have as to damage to RICHELIEU.

(1st S.L. 0135/9 to R.A. HERMES)

Report name of officer in charge of HERMES motor boat in attack on RICHELIEU and roughly how attack was carried out. Do you consider that RICHELIEU knew that depth charges were dropped from motor boat? (1st. S.L. 0151/9 to R.A. HERMES)

Your 0135/9. (a) Alongside Southern end of North jetty starboard side on with stern canted some distance away from jetty.
(b) Probably both.
4 depth charges explode in shallow water close under port quarter. Explosion of 5 torpedoes heard by cruiser 10 miles away. Heavy pall of smoke seen by motor and by experienced pilot of aircraft. Ocular evidence of aircraft observers and photographic evidence that ship had slight list to port and was down by stern. Position of stern referred to in (a) above. (HERMES 0245/9 to Adty.)

Your 0151/9. Lieutenant Commander R.H. Bristowe. Motor Boat left ship at 2145/7 and entered harbour from southward over and round boom finally getting alongside RICHELIEU's port quarter dark hours 0210/8 Boat challenged by RICHELIEU during approach. Dropping operation alongside took only 10 seconds and was witnessed by excited parties on quarter deck. Several minutes elapsed before explosions occurred. Motor boat was broken down inside harbour for an hour and was chased while escaping only avoiding capture by crossing net which pursuer fouled. Throughout operation only one engine was running. Motor boat was picked up 1204/8.

Motor boat was in sight of RICHELIEU during torpedo bomber attack and heard and felt explosions of 5 torpedoes and saw smoke arising from her waterline. Amend my 1427/8 all torpedoes were fired at RICHELIEUS port side. (R.A. HERMES 02152/9 to Adty.)

War Diary

28.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report (Continued)

The work of the Aircraft Carriers

V.A.(A) reports that the morale of German airmen is poor, and they fail to stand up to greatly inferior numbers of our aircraft.

No fighter opposition was experienced during his daylight raid on Trondheim on 25/4. In a further raid on 27/4 the Skuas shot down 4 Heinkels and damaged 5, and ARK ROYAL shot down one JU.88. All the hangers at Varnes aerodrome were destroyed, with several aircraft. 15 seaplanes at anchor were also successfully attacked. 2 Skuas were lost.

Enemy Air Activity.

The A/S trawlers CAPE SIRETOKA and WISTARIA were bombed and machine gunned by 7 Heinkels at 1700/28 near Aandalsnes. The CAPE SIRETOKA was sunk, but shot down one aircraft. The WISTARIA went ashore.

Christiansand North was bombed several times during the day and has been burning since 1600/28.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command raids planned for the night 27/28 were cancelled on account of fog. GLORIOUS is returning to Scapa to fuel, but ARK ROYAL is still operating off the coast of Norway.

Casualties - Merchant Shipping

S.S. SCOTTISH AMERICAN (6999 tons) which was torpedoed off Cape Wrath 27/4 was towed into Loch Eribol, where a tug is standing by. She has 9000 tons of oil for discharge.

S.S. PIZARRO, British transport (Convoy TSM 2) was in collision with French PAUL EMILE JAVARY (Convoy FS 3) last night, about 16 miles E.N.E. of Stornoway. The PIZARRO had to be beached at Stornoway, as her engine room bulkheads were leaking and she was sinking by the stern. The JAVARY reached Scapa.

War Diary

9.7.1940.
Tuesday

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

East Indies

Your 1142//7 No risk of scuttling must be incurred as this ship may be of value to us in the future. (A.C.N.S.F. 0012/9 to C. in C., East Indies.)

C. in C., E.I. 07252/3 Pass to French C.in C., Far East. Begins. In order that H.M.S. CARAIBE should not fall into enemy hands, as was promised by Admiral Darlan, H.M. Govt. issued instructions that she should be directed to proceed to a British port.

These instructions were carried out by a British warship and CARAIBE has entered an African port without incident. She has been demilitarized and her Officers and ship's company will be repatriated as soon as possible. Ends. (A.C.N.A.F. 0013/9 to C. in C., China)

Casablanca

Report, (A) State and condition of JEAN BART and crew.
(B) Whether it is considered that if JEAN BART returned to France she could be placed in commission within six months.
(C) French intentions, if known, as regards any future movements of this ship.
Understood B.N.L.O. from Casablanca is now at Gibraltar and might be able to give this information. (1st S.L. 0136/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary

28.4.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report

Narvik Area

General Bethouart arrived from Namsos to take command of the French troops in the Narvik area.

RESOLUTION with 3 destroyers arrived at Tromso.

Mosjeon or M.O. Area

The C. in C., H.F., has recommended that a landing be carried out, with the first object of denying the area to the enemy's air force.

Namsos Area.

GUNVOR MAERSK carrying A.A. guns and ammunition arrived 2130/28 to unload and left again immediately.

4 R.M. howitzers were landed from CHOBRY during the night 27/28.

Aandalsnes Area

Heavy bombing attacks took place on the ships in the area and to seaward of it, ARK ROYAL being made a special traget. BLACK SWAN, ASHANTI and NUBIAN all received minor damage; in the case of the BLACK SWAN a bomb passed through her, flooding her fresh water tank and magazine. She sailed for Scapa during the night, with nearly all her ammunition expended.

63 bombs were dropped on Convoy T.M.1, but no ships were hit. This convoy is returning home escorted by MOHAWK, with AMAZON and WITHERINGTON, having landed stores from only one ship during the night 27/28.

War Diary

10.7.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

S.S. ALKWAKI. Sabotage suspected

At 1210 an aircraft on convoy escort saw S.S. ALKWAKI (Dutch 4533 tons) draw away from Convoy OA 180 off Cape Wrath and develop a list. Boats were lowered. An escorting destroyer reported that sabotage was suspected. The ship sank at 1900. Coast watchers reported a U-boat in the neighbourhood and destroyers were sailed from Scapa to search.

French Fleet

S.O.(I) Gibraltar reports that on the morning of 9/7 6 submarines, 2 destroyers and fighter aircraft were on patrol. JEAN BART, JULES VERNE, PRIMAUGUET and 8 or 10 destroyers were in the harbour. High angle guns were constantly manned and there was an air of expectancy of attack.

A.M.C. CORFU damaged

HERMES while on passage from Dakar to Freetown was in collision with A.M.C. CORFU escorting convoy SL 39 from Freetown to U.K. at 0500/10 during a dense tropical storm. CORFU was badly holed forward. She has been ordered to proceed to Freetown at slow speed and a tug has been requested. DORSETSHIRE is standing by her. A.M.C. DUNVEGAN CASTLE sailed at 1730/10 to escort SL 39 in place of CORFU. HERMES with 141 men from CORFU, and MILFORD have arrived at Freetown.

Enemy Air Activity

Raids on U.K. — Aircraft operated last night against the coastal areas of Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk. Falmouth was attacked for the fifth successive day; two ships were set on fire and one sunk, and two wharves were badly damaged. Bombs were also dropped on Portland, Swansea and at Pembroke dock at each place one bomb penetrated an oil tank but has not so far exploded.

War Diary

10.7.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Attacks on Shipping

Heavy attacks on shipping were made again today. VIMIERA and Convoy FS 17 were unsuccessfully attacked off Great Yarmouth at 0604 and again off Lowestoft at 1026 and off Cromer at 13/6.

A Southbound convoy and a Channel convoy were attacked in the Thames Approaches, but no ships were hit. At 1345 the same Channel convoy, escorted by VERSATILE, was again attacked by 25 aircraft off Dungeness and the Dutch Skoot BILLS was sunk, the crew being rescued.

The enemy were part of a force of 120 aircraft which collected behind Calais and approached the convoy. Our fighters shot down 9 and seriously damaged 11 others of the enemy, losing 2.

An outwardbound convoy, escorted by SCARBOROUGH, was bombed in St. George's Channel at 1630. No details are known.

A small Channel convoy, escorted by ROSEMARY was bombed at 1500 off Portland but no ships were hit. Fighters drove off the enemy.

The Owers Light Vessel was bombed at 1357, damage not yet known. The Light vessel was subsequently withdrawn.

At 1150 WATERLOO (British 1905 tons) was sunk near Smith's Knoll. The crew were rescued.

DANEMAN (516 tons) was attacked at 1840 south of Worthing by 6 aircraft. No details are known.

Total enemy casualties during the day were 12 certain and 17 probable. Two Hurricanes were lost and 2 crashed on landing.

British Air Activity

TIRPITZ attacked

Weather conditions las night were very unfavourable, and some operations were cancelled, though routine, anti-invasion and A/S patrols were flown at dawn and throughout the night over practically the entire North Sea and English Channel. Hampdens attacked the VON TIRPITZ and dockyard at Wilhelmshaven, and Borkum, Texel and Waalhaven aerodromes; bursts were seen in the corner of the latter aerodrome, but otherwise no results could be observed owing to intense S/L activity, darkness and haze. Naval targets were also attacked by Wellingtons at Bremen. Flakships were attacked by Hampdens. During day operations 6 Blenheims were lost.

War Diary

28.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report (continued)

Mediterranean Concentration — MALAYA and ROYAL SOVEREIGN, escorted by 4 destroyers left Gibraltar at 1600/28 for Alexandria.

Enemy Mining — Two magnetic mines have been exploded near Sunk L.V. and one near Shambles L.V.

STERLET — 24 hours overdue and considered lost.

Norwegian Troops — Reported in good heart, but urgently needing artillery support.

War Diary

10.7.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity (Contd.)

Patrols

A new anti-invasion patrol off the coast between Portland and Lands End was flown from today. Nearly all normal patrols were flown.

Photographic R.c's

Photographic reconnaissance flights were made to Helder, Ymuiden, Zuyder Zee, Amsterdam and Schipol.

Mining

Amble, Newhaven and the inshore channel from Blyth to Tyne are still closed.

Magnetic mines were exploded today in the following areas: Tyne (also, not previously reported, on 8/7 and 9/7), Harwich, Downs, and Portsmouth.

Nine Hampdens successfully carried out gardening in the Jade Weser estuary.

Italian Hostilities

The Mediterranean Fleet was south of Malta refuelling destroyers. WARSPITE's aircraft reports that during the engagement yesterday Italian aircraft bombed their own ships, though without result.

Malta was attacked by about 20 enemy aircraft this morning and two or three of the enemy were shot down. Bombs were dropped on the dockyard, where slight damage was done. A further raid took place at 2150, no damage or casualties reported.

Italian destroyer sunk

Swordfish aircraft attacked Augusta yn today. Nothing was seen in the harbour, but in a small harbour (probably Port Bruccoli) 2 miles north the aircraft sank a destroyer and a hulk.

At 1712 an enemy battle fleet was reported sailing from Augusta.

A convoy escorted by DECOY, VAMPIRE and VOYAGER left Malta at 2100/10 for Alexandria.

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Namsos

Operation Maurice (continued)

Jetty	Small ships only to be sent to Namsos as jetty is very frail and there are no cranes or tugs (C.S.18. 1827/18 to Adty.).
a/c attack on Varnes aerodrome	See 19/4.

War Diary

10.7.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity (Contd,)

ANTHONY	Bombed 12 miles S.E. of Orfordness (I.C.0508/40).
VERITY	Bombed 12 miles S.E. of Orfordness (I.C.0508/40).
WATERLOO sunk	British 1905 tons, bombed and sunk 2½ miles N.E. magnetic from Smiths Knoll Buoy at 1145/10. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0900/11 to Adty.)
DANEMAN	Am being attacked by aircraft 20'S.of Worthing. (DANEMAN 1840/10).
Cardiff Swansea	4 bombs dropped, none exploded, no damage (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1825/10). 9 k., 16 W. At National Oil Refinery, Llandazey, Skeeren one tank destroyed, one unexploded bomb penetrated another tank. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1825/10).
Portland	At 1300/10 two bombs dropped by one aircraft in the Mere Oil Fuel Tanks. One unexploded. Slight damage. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1504/10 to Adty.).
Falmouth	Two Wharves badly damaged, and BRITISH CHANCELLOR, 7085 tons, and MARI CHANDRIS, 5840 tons, set on fire by aircraft. TUSCALUSA, 6499 tons, sunk by aircraft alongside Northern Arm. (D.C.N.S. 311).
Pembroke Dock	Oil-tank at Llanneath hit by bomb whichfhiled to explode. (I.C. 0508/40)

Mining

3 magnetic mines were exploded off the Tyne. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1227/10).

3 magnetic mines were exploded in Thames area, one in Harwich area, one in Downs area, and one in Portsmouth area. (D.C.N.S. 311).

Amble, Newhaven, and the Tyne-Blyth Inner Channel are closed. (D.C.N.S. 311).

A mine exploded at X^4 214° Nab End Buoy 6 cables; one in Sunit Area; and one in Ramsgate searched Channel. (I.C. 0508/40).

War Diary

30.4.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Norwegian Reports

H.Q. Furset — C. in C., Staff and we five are at Furset, 62:52 N., 7:36 E. (Norway H.Q., 1031/30) (D.C., 1426/30).

SLEIPNER — Destroyer, to proceed Rosyth. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2358/30).

Dutch Coast

Sweep postponed — My 1451/29. Operation further postponed (V.A., Dover, 1557/30).

Troop Convoys etc.

F.S.2 — To proceed to Vaags Fiord (F.O. Narvik, 0830/30).

Convoy — BELLEROPHON and LYCAON sailed, escorted by ISIS, IMOGEN, ILEX. Route until ordered by F.O., Narvik, (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0853/30).

TM1 — Convoy turned over to AMAZON (MOHAWK, 0715/30)

FP3 — BEN-MY-CHREE to join (see Mosjoen). (C. in C., H.F., 1050/30).

LASSO) ULLSWATER) — Cable ship LASSO and A/S trawler ULLSWATER both for Narvik ready to leave Invergordon am/2/5. (D.O.D.(H) 1715/30).

War Diary

10.7.40.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

TRAFALGAR	Engine disabled, require Tug, at 340° Bull Point 12'. (TRAFALGAR 0200/10 to Adty.)
HERMES CORFU	HERMES was in collision with CORFU at 0302 zone + 1 in position 09:10 N., 15:48 W. CORFU badly holed starboard bow, ordered proceed Freetown at slow speed. Collision occurred in dense tropical storm. No casualties. (R.A., HERMES, 0623/10).
OREGON	Detail 2 destroyers to escort, reported at 46:50 N., 13:45 W. at 2330/9 course 042 speed 3.5 knots. SALVONIA being sent from Falmouth. (C. in C. W.A. 1138/10).
ALWAKI	Dutch, 4500 tons, drew out of convou OA 180 at 1210/10 in 58:43 N., 5:31 W. and listed to port. Believed scuttled. (N.A. Donibristle 1530/10 to Adty.)(ST. LAURENT 1745/10 to C. in C. H.F.). Sank at 2110/10 (D.S. 310) See also U-boat campaign.
FOXGLOVE	Damage by bomb considered beyond economical repair. Request instructions. (A.S. Portsmouth 1941/10 to Adty.)

War Diary. 10.7.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Pamphlet Raids. Over Casablanca area p.m. 9/7 and over Rabat and Port Lyantey a.m.10/7. No opposition either occasion. When French reactions to these raids have been received, consideration will be given to extend them to Coast of Algeria and Tunis, in which Malta might co-operate.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1102/10.

Force H. Expect to arrive Gibraltar 0900/11.
(S.O. Force H, 1110/10).

Casablanca Situation, Refugees. Reported Casablanca great anti-British feeling since Dakar action. Hoped leaflets dropped last night may have reduced this. In view of present discussions with French authorities at Casablanca regarding re-evacuation of 13,000 Gibraltarian women and children who had been sent there from Gibraltar and of presence at Casablanca of 15 British Merchant ships, it is important that relations with French authorities there should be as friendly as possible. If after consideration of my 1132/9 it is decided to be unnecessary to take naval action against JEAN BART, suggest it be announced formally or hinted unofficially no attack on warships now at Casablanca is contemplated. This would also reduce present temptation to bomb Force H. in harbour at Gibraltar).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1256/10).

Pamphlet Raids. Your 1104/10. Such enquiries as Consul-General, Rabat, has been able to prosecute show that effect of pamphlet raid, while beneficial, has not been very widespread, He is however definitely of opinion that it is most desirable that they unmistakably be continued.
(Tangier, 1830/10 to S.O.I. Gib.)

South Atlantic.

HERMES In collision with CORFU. (R.A.HERMES 0623/10).
See Casualties.

DUNVEGAN CASTLE. Cancel my 1009/8. CORFU collision, DUNVEGAN CASTLE to take over escort of SL 39, later to proceed Greenock.
(C. in C. S.A. 1231/10).

War Diary. 10.7.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Fleet Positions. Fleet will pass through position 35-22 N., 14-10 E., at 1200 on a course 110° 15 knots. Course will be altered to 290° at 1500 and 090° at 1900. (C. in C. Med. 0924/10). Orders to Fleet re fuelling etc. (C.in C. Med. 1149/10). My position, course and speed, 035°00'N., 15°00'E., 290°, 15 knots, at 1500. (C. in C. Med. 1359/10).

No Casualties. In case of mendacious Italian report, there were no casualties or damage in yesterday's action. (C. in C. Med., 1115/10)

Destroyers. Capt. D.2. HYPERION, HOSTILE, DAINTY, HASTY, DEFENDER, ILEX, JUNO sailed to rejoin. (C.A., Malta, 1115/10).
Join me. My position course and speed, 35°00' N., 15°00' E., 290°, 15 knots at 1500. (C. in C. Med. to Capt. D.2. 1359/10).

Torpedo Bombers. Your 0701/10 just received. We can manage 6 torpedo bombers, possibly 7. Time does not permit of any more. (F.C.I.C. Malta, 1300/10 to C. in C. Med.) May 1300. For 6 possibly 7 read 9. (F.C.I.C. Malta, 1353/10).

Submarines. Orders to RORQUAL and PHOENIX. (C. in C. Med, 0711/10) PANDORA and PROTEUS to revert to operational control of C. in C. Med. (D.O.D.(F) 1321/10) (F.O.C.N.A., 1736/11).

Ship in Greece. Greek authorities report that presence of BRITISH UNION near Woodall Bay is embarrassing them specially at the moment when they are interning crew of 5 of the aircraft shot down in Crete. They also report that an Italian a/c evidently located her yesterday. (N.A. Athens, 1133/10)

French ships, Casablanca. French force at Casablanca am.9/7 as reported by British Master. Outside patrol 6 submarines with inner patrol of 2 destroyers and fighter aircraft patrol of 9 overhead. In harbour, JEAN BART, JULES VERNE, PRIMAUGUET and 8 to 10 destroyers. High angle guns in (?) JEAN BART or JULES VERNE and all other approaches in port constantly manned. British PEN GREEP, BELGIEN and another British ship with armed guard on board. General atmosphere very hostile and expectant of attack. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1224/10).

Enemy Fleet. Position course and speed of enemy battle fleet at 1712, 37:17 N., 15:12 E., 060°, 20 knots. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 1807/10) My 1807. Enemy ships were leaving Port Augusta. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 2225/10).

Air.

Augusta C. in C. requires Sunderland nearest Augusta at 1400 and 1830 look at ships in Augusta Harbour. 1400 report only to be sent Malta by W/T when cle of land. (From ? to F/B W.9023, 1320/10).

FOREIGN STATIONS. 10.7.40. Wednesday.

Mediterranean.

Air.

Enemy bomb own ships

Fleet Air Arm attacking ships in Augusta tonight 10/7. Have been south of Malta all day refuelling destroyers. Fleet will start back for Alexandria tomorrow Thursday covering convoys. Reported by WARSPITE's A/c that in yesterday's action enemy aircraft also bombed their own fleet. Unfortunately no hits. (C. in C. Med., 1037/10).

Governor Malta's 9382 of 9/7 to W.P. Strongly support his views which are in line with mine already expressed. (C. in C. Med., 1449/10).

Malta raids.

0749 to 0842, 4 formations about 20 a/c flew over Island, bombs dropped on Zabber Tarxien dockyard, Misida and Manock Ireland areas. 3 enemy a/c shot down, subsequent uncertainty about third. Damage slight. Military 2 slightly injured; civilians, 1 killed, 3 injured. (H.Q. Malta, 1635/10).

Situation report, raid by about 4 planes at 2150. Bombs out to sea, on Grand Harbour and Takkrock A/A position, and in Birkirkara area. Some machine gun fire from low latitude. No military casualties or damage reported. (Governor, Malta, 0100/11)

Alexandria Raid. By single unidentified a/c 9/7, 3 bombs dropped near boom defences. No damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1757/10).

Attack on Augusta. Result of Swordfish attack. Nothing seen in Augusta but in small harbour 2 miles north one destroyer and one hulk were sunk by 4 aircraft. Outside this harbour, 3 or 4 motor torpedo boats were observed under way and 3 submarines stationary. Our remaining 5 aircraft saw no targets and returned with torpedoes. Swordfish take off at 0715 for rendezvous at 0800 as arranged. (F.O.I.C. Malta 0040/11).

East Indies.

Convoys. C. in C. S.A.'s 1814/8. Route for W.S.1 and KENT.(C. in C. E.I. 0506 Z/10). WESTRALIA to leave Colombo for Bombay. WESTRALIA and CATHAY to form Force "R" for Convoy BN 2 (C.in C. E.I. 0632/10).
My 0628/9. Addition. Onward transport cannot be provided with fuel or water at Trincomalee but will be sailed independently for Colombo when loaded and replenished. (C. in C. E.I. 0704 Z/10).

10.7.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Assab. — Air reconnaissance report, 2 M.V. 1 sloop sunk in harbour. (A.H.Q. Aden 1825/10).

China.

SHENGKING Incident. — Your 1706/9. What do French military authorities in Shanghai have to say about the matter? Approved to endeavour to arrange as in your para. 4. The sooner this ammunition is handed back to the French the better. (C. in C. China, 1051/ 10 to N.L.O., Shanghai).

Substance of Master's Report of incident, and steps taken to deal with Japanese protest. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 2228Z/10).
French Military and Air Attaches friendly and eager to effect quick release of SHENGHKING by negotiations. Both agree France and Britain must co-operate in Far East in force of yellow races. Interview of A.N.L.O. with Japanese Chief of Staff. C.O.S. eager for further private discussions which will be arranged. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 2232Z/10).

CARAIBE, French Protest. — Protest from Vice-Adm. Decoux, French C. in C. Far East, for First Sea Lord, at CARAIBE being conducted to a British port to be demilitarized. Makes most complete reservation as to consequences of the arbitrary disarmament, and insists she should be sent to Madagascar. (Liaison Officer, Saigon, 1300z/10).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

NESTOR	2446 G.T., after repairs due to sail in ballast from Gottenburg pm 10/7 for a German port. (I.C., 0507/40).
BADEN	Empty at Teneriffe. Agent of Hamburg-Amerika Line refused permission from Hamburg to sell lifeboats or any equipment to an Italian steamer. (I.C., 0507/40).
BIRGIT	Arrived Gottenburg with general cargo. (Gottenburg 0945/10).
CAP ARCONA	A.3 reports she is expected at Rio de Janeiro 11/7. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1222/10)(S.O.I. Freetown, 2229/10) Not considered likely and ship believed to be in Germany (I.C. 0508/40).
IMATRA	990 tons, seized by Norwegian authorities during operations in Norway, has been renamed MOYSALEN, and is now at Reykjavik. (Lloyds, D.S., 310).
MARITZA	2910 G.T., completing unloading bauxite from DUBROUNIK at Trieste on 6/7. (I.C., 0508/40) Split reports arrived Sibenik 8/7. (S.O.I., Alexandria 1723/10).
INGO	3950 G.T., arrived at Trieste at 2000/6 from Split with bauxite. (I.C., 0508/40).
ANTILLA	(Scuttled at Aruba 10/5). Dutch Govt. reported to have no objection to efforts being made to raise vessel. (I.C., 0508/40).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

	3 loaded Italian passed through Canal westward believed from Constanza. Considered reliable. (N.A. Athens, 1136/10). Probable they are making for Italy from Dodecanese Islands. (I.C., 0508/40).
TREMARIE	My 1253/3. Italian TREMARIE has now painted out her name and has black hull and funnel. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, to S.O. Force H. 1123/10).

War Diary

8.7.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

War Diary

10.7.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

ALWAKI	Dutch 4533 tons. Apparently sinking after explosion in engine room. 58:46 N., 4:46 W., 10 miles N.E. Cape Wrath. Crew in boats. Have anti-scuttling party on board. (ST. LAURENT 1245/10). Sabotage suspected. HARMONIC picking up crew. (ST. LAURENT, 1345/10). Send 3 destroyers to hunt. Submarine probable but possibility of mines cannot be ignored. (C. in C. H.F. to R.A.D. 1446/10). My 1446. All available destroyers with steam to be sent. (C. in C., H.F. to R.A.D. 1458/10). Your 1245. Are you certain that explosion was internal. (C. in C., H.F., 1554/10, to ST. LAURENT). ALWAKI still afloat heavily to port, gunwhale invisible, ships abandoned, consider extremely dangerous to put hands on board. (BANDIT, 2040/10). Ship sunk, am returning to port. (BANDIT, 2110/10). Your 1924. Dutch ship sank at 2107. (D.6 to C. in C., H.F., 2108/10). Cause of explosion possibly a torpedo but probably sabotage or mine. (A.S.W.D. 309, 11/7). See also CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.
PETSAMO	Finnish, 4596 tons, torpedoed 20' South of Fastnet (A.S.W.D. 309, 11/7). Approx. 51:08 N., 9:22 W. 150 Fastnet 15. (I.C. 0508/40). 4 of crew killed, remainder landed Baltimore, Ireland. Not in convoy (D.S.)

Submarines Reported

1155	By coast watches, periscope seen 40 miles W, of Thusso at 1155. (C.4). (F.O.C.O.S., 1305/10) (C. in C., Rosyth, 1524/10).
1410	Submarines reported by coast watcher due West of Scourie Point, 58:21 N., 05:11 W. (F.O.C.O.S., 1450).
1245	By ST. LAURENT, 10 m. N.E. of Cape Wrath. Dutch ALWAKI attacked. (see Ships Attacked). All available destroyers to hunt. (C. in C., H.F. to R.A.D., 1458/10). Orders to destroyers (R.A.D.H.F., 1503/10).
0307	49:0 N., 12:0 W., 256 Lands End 253°, position indefinite. (I.C., 0507/40).
1135	Submarine periscope 200° Blyth 8 miles (doubtful). (C. in C., Rosyth 1649/10).

War Diary

8.7.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

War Diary

10.7.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

2028 — 57:0 N., 6:0 E., 210 The Naze 67'. D.F., indefinite. (I.C., 0508/40).

Estimated dispositions:-

Possibly 1 in Finisterre Area.
2 in Western Approaches
1 in Northern North Sea, Homeward bound.
(I.C., 0507/40).

Submarines Attacked

2030 — Aircraft reported suspected submarine position 57:09 N., 1:56 W. Carried out attack on doubtful contact. (SKEENA, 2030/10).

2106 — HAVELOCK and HARVESTER to join DEPTFORD attacking U/B in position 48:56 N., 10:11 W. (C. in C., W.A., 2106/10)(A.S.W.D., 309).
WALKER rejoining convoy. Contact now stationary in ~~xxxxx~~ observed position 48:55 N., 10:14 W. Have fired electrical charges. Oil increased. (DEPTFORD, 2325/10). Oil probably from wreck of SULTAN STAR (I.C., 0508/40).

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported

1000 — Swordfish reports submarine 0900. Hal Far 20 miles at 1000 cruising periscope depth. Dived on approach. Destroyers warned. (F.O.I.C., Malta. 1113/10).

0500 — Aircraft reported submarine 15 miles E. of Delimara 35:53 N., 16:02 E. which dived before aircraft reached it. (H.Q., MALTA, 1635/10) (I.C. 0508 gives position 35:49 N., 14:55 E.).

p.m. — 3 U-boats reported by aircraft 2' N. of Port Augusta, Sicily. (I.C., 0508/40).

War Diary

11.7.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Patrols off French Ports

Request very early consideration to establishment of submarine patrols off Brest and French West Coast ports to give warning of, and attack, any expedition leaving those ports. (C. in C., W.A. 0038/11 to Adty.)

No further information with regard to an attempted invasion is available. Every vigilance should continue to be exercised, but boiler cleanings should be carried out. (D.O.D.H. 1249/11 to Flag Officers).

Trawlers to operate off Ireland

When available two of Belfast trawler force to operate off the West Coast of Ireland, proceeding Westabout with the objects of
(a) Destroying U/Boats, who are to be attacked wherever met.
(b) Intercepting and reporting suspicious vessels.
Area of operations to lie between Queenstown and the Shannon. Time on patrol to be as long as practicable.

U/Boats are believed to follow the 100 fathom line down the West Coast of Ireland. The Germans may try to land troops in Neutral or disguised German Merchant Ships. (C. in C., W.A. 2031/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Policy.

French Warships

My 1155/4 any French naval forces other than than submarines which may be encountered should be given anopportunity to accept terms before resorting to force. The position in regard to submarines is governed by Adty. message 259 A of 8/7. (C. in C., H.F. 1053/11 to H.F. 422).

Consequent on the necessity which has arisen to use force against the French naval forces at Oran all French Naval Forces must now be regarded as hostile. Ships are to be prepared to attack but should not fire the first shot. Serial number 372. (C. in C., H.F. 1155/4 to H.F.)

War Diary

11.7.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

18th C.S. Your 1916/10. Would prefer not to patrol on these nights. (C.S.18 0719/11 to C. in C., Nore).

Patrols Patrol Vessels are now being frequently bombed. Intend to withdraw them in certain areas during daylight and maintain the Patrol from sunset to sunrise and during thick weather. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1537/11 to Adty.).

In view of frequent Air Attacks on Falmouth, it is important that WESTERLAND and Dutch Warships comprising the depot but not midshipmen's training centre should be based elsewhere as soon as possible Holyhead has been suggested and to this C. in C Dutch Navy agrees. If you concur request you will make the necessary arrangements at earliest opportunity in conjunction with S.N.N.O. Falmouth. (D.O.D.H. 17 13/11 to A.C.W.A.).

Positions of submarines and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600/12:
Clyde - STADLANDET, TRUANT Q.S.M.F. 4530. TETRARCH Q.S.M.F. 0740. SUNFISH P.C.M.F. 5525. SALMON P.C.M.F. 4030. WILK J.Z.L.Z. 3500. SPEARFISH H 44 H. ~~xx~~ one andtwo H.28 C.P.S.C. 5351 H.49.
Dover Strait - SEVERN escorted by WHITE BEAR arrives North Channel am for onward passage to Plymouth escorted by one of Belfast trawler force TRIAD X.Z.S.C. 0040 TAKU Y.G.V.D. 4520 both proceeding on the surface to Rosyth. SWORDFISH N.L.W.T. 3005 proceeding submerged by day to Blyth H.50 proceeds from Harwich to Sheerness unescorted on the surface. (V.A.S. 1828/11).

E-Boats

Marked E-boat activity near North Foreland (C. in C., Nore 0110/11).

E-boats reported near Approach Channel. Grade B. (Portsmouth W/T 0129/11 to VERSATILE).

At 0155/11 possible E-boats off Dunnose steering S.W. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0200/11 to ACHERON).

At 0345/11 one E-boat 15' St. Catherines 125° (I.C. 0508/40).

Four E-boats course 200° bearing 180° 5 ' from 49:45 N. 4:30 W. Aircraft report. (R.217 Sqdn. 2115/11). Convoys informed (C. in C., W.A. 2139/11).

HOME COMMANDS

E-boats (Contd.)

At 2055/11 one E-boat at 49:45 N., 4:57 W. Aircraft report. (C. in C., W.A. 0149/12 to Adty.).

At 2350/1 four E-boats bombed at 49:45 N., 4:47 W. (15 Group 2359/11 to H.Q.C.C.)

Boulogne At 1255/11 four E-boats alongside quay at Boulogne; they had left by 1530/11. (D.D.I.C. 2114/12 PRU Intell. 1705/12).

Air

British Air Activity

At 2359/11 bombed 4 E-boats at 49:45 N., 4:47 W. Steering-gear of one E-boat believed damaged. (15 Group 2359/11 to H.Q.C.C.)

At 1310/11 bombed 2 Danish Fishing Smacks at 56:25 N., 5:40 E. (Donibristle 1545/11 to Adty.)

Boulogne Bombed at 1250/11. N.E. corner of first Lock hit. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1715/11 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy Arena Enemy aircraft bombing 52:35 N., 2:8 E. (WINCHESTER 0525/11). Four bombs, no hits. (WINCHESTER 0537/11).

Fighter Aircraft being sent (Nore W/T. 0551/11). Being attacked by aircraft 51:41 N., 1:35 E. (WESTON 1326/11) Fighters have left (Cleethorpes Radio 1356/11).

KORRAH Trawler, bombed, at 0050/11 E. of Skerry-Vore. No damage. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1015/11 to Adty.)

Second Enemy Seaplane shot down at 1037/11 at 49:40 N., 4:55 W., (C. in C., W.A., 1124/11 to WOLVERINE).

Enemy aircraft bombing at 52:13 N., 1:55 E. (WIVERN 1140/11).

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

VENOMOUS (on patrol) — Attacked by one enemy aircraft at 52:10 N., 1:56 E., six bombs. (VENOMOUS 1143/1 to N.O.I.C. Harwich) Help 52:0 N., 1:0 E. 085 (VENOMOUS 1158/11).

Enemy aircraft bombing at 51:41 N. 1:35 E. (WINCHESTER 1325/11 6 bombs. No hits. (WINCHESTER 1330/11).

Convoy Pilot — Being attacked 52:14 N., 1:57 E. course 027, speed 8 knots. (BLACK SWAN 1412/11). Fighters have left (Nore W/T 1419/11). Enemy aircraft bombing convoy pilot my position 52:13 N., 2:0 E. (HASTINGS 1455/11). One aeroplane, 5 bombs, no hits. (HASTINGS 1505/11).

Skerryvore Light — Bombs fell in sea near Light at 0025/11. Request inquiry to Coastal Command Oban whether bombs friendly or hostile. (C. in C., Rosyth 1311/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Coastal Command Oban consider bombs to be of hostile origin. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1546/11 to C. in C., Rosyth).

MIES (Dutch 309)
VAN GELDER (Dutch 325) — Damaged by aircraft attack 11/7 (D.S. 312).

KYLEMOUNT — British Coaster, attacked by 8 Bombers at 1130/11 10 miles off Dartmouth. One man seriously wounded by machine gun. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1712/11 to C. in C., W.A.).

Portland, PERU, CITY OF MELBOURNE damaged — Attacked by 18 aircraft at 1155/11. Slight damage to PERU and CITY OF MELBOURNE and 2 minor casualties Four enemy aircraft shot down. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1822/11 to Adty.)

WARRIOR II — Adty. Yacht. Sunk by near misses off Portland at 0845/11. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1825/11 to Adty.)

Portsmouth SAVORNANDE BRAZZA damaged — Air raid by about 10 aircraft at 1805 to 1810/11. Two SAVORNAN DE BRAZZA, some Chasseurs, a Cherbourg Pilot boat, and one M/B slightly damaged. Casualties 3 French sailors wounded. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2253/11 to Adty.)

War Diary

11.7.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation B.S. 23 completed. (Capt. D.20. 1333/11 to Adty.) No Air escort sighted. (Capt.D.20 1335/11 to C. in C., Rosyth).

One floating mine (Orange) at 54:10 N., 1:10 E. at 1025/11 Aircraft report. (Donibristle 1350/11 to Adty.).

Unexplained explosions

Series of large under-water-explosions in area North of Rona. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 1350/11 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Two enemy destroyers at 53:30 N. 5:0 E. Aircraft report. (Aircraft 206 Sqdn. 2220/11 to Bircham Newton) (Chatham 0109/12 to H.Q.C.C.)

Stavanger

3 destroyers near Rosenberg Dock, probably for repair. In Main harbour, one U-boat, 2 T.Bs and 2 M/Bs with A/A guns. Observer B.3 on 3 July. (N.A. Stockholm, 1558/11 to D.N.I.)

Shipping

OA Convoys to run from Methil

C. in C., Nore 2126/10 para 2.
(1) With augmented staff asked for in my 1831/9 the OA convoy should be well within capacity of N.C.S.O. Methil who recently dealt with very large Scandinavian convoys. Re (2) even in the exceptional weather of last winter there were few days on which convoys were delayed due to inability to board. (3) At times over 100 ships have gathered in Methil. (4) Apart from the physical anti submarine and E boat defences which are probably better at Southend, Methil is six times as far from any enemy controlled territory as the former and with increasing air activity this would seem a most important factor. (C. in C., Rosyth 1052/11 to Adty.)

Cancel first two para. of my 1404/30.
OA convoys will assemble at and be routed and sailed from Methil. Additional staff requested in C. in C. Rosyth 1831/9 is being arranged.
C. in C. Rosyth to inform Adty. and other authorities concerned from what date N.C.S.O. Methil will be able to undertake above duties.

Cancel....

War Diary

11.7.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

OA Convoys to run from Methil (Contd.)

Cancel my 1924/30. Commodores of OA convoys will sail from Methil and should be embarked in a ship bound for a West Coast port, a suitable Master being appointed as Vice-Commodore to take the duties of Commodore of the ocean-going section after dividing in the Northern approaches. (A.C.N.S.T. 1333/11).

Your 1711/9. EMERALD is to escort EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA to Iceland and then proceed independently to Clyde. Subsequent movements of EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA will be communicated. As T.C.6 is now considerably reduced in numbers REVENGE only is considered adequate escort. (D.O.D.F. 1925/11 to R.A.3).

Convoys during invasion

My 2240/8. Delete all after "is likely to be enemy transports". Substitute: If the escort opens fire on a body of ships approaching the convoy ships in convoy are also to open fire if their guns will bear or ram if they are in a suitable position to do so. After inflicting all damage possible they should endeavour to regain touch with the convoy failing which they should move away from the invasion area and continue their voyage. It is the duty of the escort to identify ships sighted and indicate their enemy character by opening fire on them. If for any reason the escort vessel is absent or out of sight, Merchant ships in convoy would always be justified in opening fire on ships approaching our our coast which are obviously enemy. e.g. ships that are clearly seen to be loaded with troops or tanks. (C. in C., Nore, 1554/11 to C. in C., Rosyth).

War Diary

11.7.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Weather

Area	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea N. of 55° N.	E. to N.E. light, to moderate.	Rain in western part fair to cloudy in eastern part.	Moderate to poor in western part with fog patches. Good in eastern part.
S. of 55° N.	S. to S.E., light to moderate.	Showers.	Moderate in western part with fog patches good in eastern part.
Horns Reef	E.S.E. light to moderate.	Showers.	Mainly good.
Dutch Coast	S. light to moderate.	Showers.	Moderate.
S.W. Norway	E. light to moderate.	Fair to cloudy.	Mainly good.
Channel	W.S.W. light.	Cloudy.	Mainly good except for fog patches (or very low cloud) in Straits of Dover.
Western Approaches	N.W. light to moderate.	Showers.	Good.

War Diary

11.7.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

HERMES Force — My 0344/7. The operation having been successfully concluded, you should relinquish the appointment of Acting Rear Admiral after today, 11/7. (Naval Secretary, 1311/11 to HERMES).

French Ships — Adty. 2025/7. Reporting Officer, Majunga, reports GAELIC STAR has sailed for Durban. Have suggested to Union authorities that BERNARDIN DE ST. PIERRE be released forthwith from Cape Town although no arrangement to this effect had been concluded with Governor, Madagascar. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1812/11 to Adty.)

French Decree, Duala — My 2200/10. Decree signed. Disestablishes French Government in France as governing authority and proclaims Governor ~~xxx~~ as supreme authority in accord British Government. Requirements for security satisfactory. Political situation undoubtedly improved, but do not think it can be considered satisfactory until reactions to decree are seen and communication with other authorities forbidden. For instance, cypher from ILHA GRANDE orders all French merchant ships to be immobilised by removal of part of the machinery. Have persuaded authorities to disregard this for French ship FORT DE TROYON, who will complete with cargo here. (DRAGON, 1900/11).

Mediterranean

Battle Fleet — Battle Fleet is to remain to westward M.S.1 until latter is past meridian 22 (? E.) M.S.1 is to steer 130° at (? 2100) for 6 hours. M.S.1 in position 098°, 35° N., 17° E., (? 21) at 1500. (C. in C., Med., 1515/11).

7th C.S. — Amend rendezvous for 7th C.S. 360 degrees, 33:0 N., 23:0 E., 35' at 0800, 12/7. Course 120 degrees, 16 knots. (C. in C., Med., 1513/11).

Convoy — Local R.A.F. authorities have been informed fast convoy leaves England for Malta 14/7. Request information. (F.O.I.C., Malta, 2225/11).

War Diary

11.7.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Local Convoys — Movements Summary No. 131. Medit. Convoy escorted by DECOY, VAMPIRE and VOYAGER left Malta 2100/10 for Alexandria. GARLAND with small convoy left Alexandria p.m. 11/7 for Haifa. Submarine Patrol, OSIRIS area W., RORQUAL north and PHOENIX south of a line 100° from Catania Light. (C.O.I.S., 1850/11).

Destroyer — At 0930/11, an aircraft reported an enemy destroyer 70 miles N.N.W. of Benghazi towing a damaged aircraft towards Benghazi. (I.C., 0509/40).

Cruisers, Destroyers — Air reconnaissance of Augusta 11/7 reported 3 cruisers and 8 destroyers in harbour. (I.C., 0509/40).

Mediterranean - Air

Reconnaissance — Position course and speed of own forces 3 merchant vessels 4 destroyers bearing 222, position 34:30 N., 21:20 E., course 104, speed 10 knots. (F/B.L. 5806, 0615/11).

Enemy Aircraft — Am being shadowed by enemy aircraft bearing 315, position 35:30 N., 17:08 E. (ORION, 0905/11).

Convoy Bombed. — Enemy bombing in position 288, 35:0 N., 17:0E., 27, based on a fix at 0500. (DECOY, 1017/11). Enemy aircraft bombing M.S.1, position 330, 35 N., 17 E., 5. (DECOY, 1255/11).

Attack on Shipping — Now bombed off Grabus Abay, Crete (BRITISH UNION, 0700/12). see 12/7.

East Indies

CARAIBE — Message 1800/10 from B.L.O., Saigon. (? 1300Z/10). Worth noting that French themselves commenced demilitarising of ship by throwing breech blocks and depth charge pistols overboard before ship entered harbour. In view of Adty. 0012/9, all officers and men of CARAIBE are being kept disembarked. There are 45 ratings whose descipline the Captain cannot guarantee. There may be an opportunity on 15/7 to repatriate whole crew to Madagascar. (C. in C., E.I. to Adty. 0938Z/11).

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

SHENGKING Incident — Your 1051/10. French-Japanese settlement reached bar ammunition being transferred to Japanese lighter today, pending discussion regarding onward shipment to Haiphong. Ship detained Shanghai pending settlement of protest but Japanese persuaded meanwhile to permit ship proceed up river. Consider essential counter protest be drafted. Personal relations very friendly. Anticipate settlement of protest today or tomorrow. Request I may use my wide discretion. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 0139/11). Your 0139Z/11. While agreeing that a strong protest is necessary to avoid recurrence, our case appears to be weak as Japanese acted in river under their de Facto control, and in view of my 0311/11 signal your proposals after consulting H.M. Ambassador. (C. in C., China, 0919Z/11).

French Request — French Consul under instructions from Indo-China authorities has requested that consignment of British made aeroplanes for Saigon in S.S. BEN LOMOND due to arrive from Hong Kong tomorrow 12/7 be discharged at Manila instead of at Singapore. Agents of vessel have requested instructions. (Consul-General, Manila, to C. in C., China, 1131/11).

C.S. Manila 1131/11. No objection in this case (A.C.N.S.(T) 2305/11). Request policy. (C. in C. China 0730Z/11 to Adty.)

America & West Indies

REVENGE / BONAVENTURE — Route and instructions for berthing. HX 57 sailed noon 11/7, route. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1201/11).

Sydney Convoy Assembly — As soon as Sydney boom complete, desired to attempt convoy assembly of ships from St. Lawrence and Newfoundland ports at Sydney. Proposed Sydney portion proceed without ocean escort to join Halifax portion in vicinity of present Halifax-Bermuda junction. Request your detailed proposal. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa to C.O.A.C., Halifax, 1629/11).

War Diary

11.7.40.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

HOLMPARK) TROLLEHOLM)	In collision in convoy HX.54. Damage to HOLMPARK slight. TROLLEHOLM leaking badly in fore peak, but can steam 5 knots. (WANDERER 0650/11 to C. in C., W.A.)
WARRIOR II sunk	Sunk off Portland by near misses at 0845/11. Chief Steward killed, 2 injured. 340 survivors landed at Portland by A/S trawler. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1825/11 to Adty.)

War Diary

11.7.40.
Thursday.

FRENCH SHIPPING

Status

From Adty. The exact status of French shipping must remain obscure until Anglo French political relations are clarified. Pending such clarification you should be guided in your actions by the following main considerations:-

(A) French Merchant ships should be stopped, by force if necessary, from entering.
(1) Any port in France
(2) Any port in any French possession in which British ships are being detained.

(B) Subject to compliance with (A) (2) it is desirable to foster friendly relations with any French colonial possessions whose Authorities are sympathetic to our cause and French ships should therefore be allowed to trade to and from ports in such areas. Until the situation is clearer, fast ships which might be used as A.M.C.'S. against us should not be released.

In intercepting these instructions you have full authority to use your discretion but should consult British Ambassadors or Colonial Governors with whom you may be in touch. (D.T.D. apprd. by 1st L.Lord 2022/11 to C. in C.'s abroad, etc.)

War Diary

11.7.40.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FRANZ JURGEN — 2170 G.T., arrived Swinemunde 1600/11. (I.C., 0509/40).

WERNER VINNEN — 2340 G.T., due to arrive Leningrad am/12/7. (I.C., 0509/40).

NORTH AMERICA — From intercepted German en clair W/T, appears that a motor ship (? tanker) with Panamanian call sign HPOC named NORTH AMERICA was transferred to Hamburg register on 11/7. As ship is unknown to Lloyds and call sign does not appear in 1940 edition of Berne List, this is probably new ship which has been building in Germany and now taken over by Nazis. (I.C., 0509/40).

MARITZA — 2910 G.T., reported to have arrived at Sibenik, Yugoslavia, 8/7 for bauxite. (I.C. 0509/40).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

PAGANINI — 2427 tons, reported in an Italian news bulletin to have caught fire and sunk 12 miles off Durazzo with a loss of 226 Italian and Albanian troops. Cause not known.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

MELPOMENE — 7011 tons Detained in Canal Area (R.A.I.C. Alexandria, 1800/11).

RHEA — 7813 tons. do.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

11.7.40.
Thursday.

Ships attacked.

A/C reports ship torpedoed in position 50.01 N. 11.54 W., at 0650. (A.C.W.A. 0709/11) (A.S.W.D. 309) (I.C. 0508/40).

S/M's Reported.

0730 — A/C reports suspicious oil track in 49.50 N., 8.20 W. Am remaining with convoy, 5 depth charges left, enough fuel to reach Liverpool. (WALKER, 0803/11).

1115 — In Western Approaches, position indefinite (I.C. 0509/40).

1120 -2014. — D.F., enemy unit probably U/B, 50° 40' N., 12°00' W., unreliable fix, (D.B/C. 1152/11) (C. in C. W.A. 1152/11). Two further transmissions at 1144 and 1218 B.S.T., from enemy unit in approx. the same position. (D.D.I.C., 1248/11). (C. in C. W.A. 1657/11) (I.C. 0509/40).

p.m./10 or a.m./11. — 51.23 N., 9.32 W., 70° Fastnet 2'. Reported by fisherman. (I.C. 0508/40).
Following torpedoing of Finnish PETSAMO off Cape Clear, time unknown, U-boat reported off Fastnet night of 10-11/7. (C. in C.W.A. 1156/11).

2010 — Enemy unit, probably U/B, in 50° 50' N., 11°20' W., unreliable fix. (D.D. I.C. 2010/11) (C. in C. W.A. 2010/11).

South Atlantic.

My 1313/10, re investigation of S/M reported to St. Vincent local W/T station. British Consul, St. Vincent, (Cape Verde) reports that at 2315/10 Portuguese destroyer TEVO has returned to harbour with nothing to report. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1159/11). S/M reported sighted 40 miles off Cape St.Vincent by British ship. No direction given. Source A.C. (Consul, Lisbon, 2005/11).

Your 0112/11. Have already joined DEPTFORD. Have carried out one attack. (Capt. D.9 to C. in C.W.A. 0216/11). 3 attacks have been carried out on DEPTFORD's target, diesel oil and heavy scum rising after each attack. No sign of movement since 0150. DEPTFORD left to rejoin convoy at 0600, HAVELOCK and HARVESTER proceeding to rejoin OREGON. (Capt. D.9, 0640/11).

War Diary. 11.7.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Mediterranean and East Indies.

Ships attacked.

ESCORT sunk.

At about 0230/11 whilst screening Battle Fleet, H.M.S. ESCORT was torpedoed in position 052, 36° N., 4° W., 24 m. No. 1 boiler roomfull. FAULKNOR and FORESTER standing by and preparing to take in tow. (S.O. Force H. 0626/11, 0741/11) ESCORT appears settling (SO, H. 1150/11) ESCORT sunk, hunt continuing. (S.O. H.1220/11).

Facts so far established regarding torpedoing. At 0215 in position 052, 36° N., 4° W., 24., officer of watch in FORESTER sighted S/M on surface on starboard bow. S/M fired stern tube (s) and crash dived. This or a previous torpedo hit ESCORT, but unknown to FORESTER, who turned towards, increased speed and opened fire with B gun. Depth charges not ready in time. No asdic contact obtained in either ship, but approaching torpedo heard as H.E.FORESTER obtained contact at about 0300 and fired six depth charges at 0315 set to 300 feet. No positive results observed. State of readiness of depth charges is being investigated. ESCORT hit abreast of bulkhead between one and two boiler rooms. Bulkhead between two and three split. Upper deck blown away except for small strip each side. Ship's back practically broken and heavy list before sinking at 1114/11. (S.O. Force H., 1555/12, 1559/12).

S/M's Reported.

0230 — 36:15 N., 4.35 W., 84' E. of Gibraltar (I.C., 0508/40).

S/M's attacked.

0959 — Oil patch B N C X 4830 (position corrupt) posible submarine, one bomb dropped. (A/C. via Malta W/T 0959/11).

Asdic Limitation.

PROTEUS and PANDORA report in area where ESCORT was torpedoed there is a definite heavy layer at 90 feet and that this has been ~~escorted~~ encountered frequently in West Mediterranean basin. It seems probable that asdics will be unable to obtain contact on submarines below this depth. (S.O. Force H. 1417/11)

War Diary

12.7.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Policy towards France

My 2005/4 and 1357/8.

(a) RICHELIEU has now been dealt with and JEAN BART could not complete for a considerable period even her building yard.

(b) Further maintenance of present tension between the French Navy and ourselves is very undesirable and might even lead to war with that country.

(c) H.M. Govt. have decided to take no further action in regard to the French ships in French Colonial or North African ports. We reserve the right to take action in regard to French warships proceeding to enemy controlled ports. So far as submarines are concerned we shall follow rules which were first generally accepted in the Nyon Convention and subsequently acted upon during the present war in respect of Italian submarines while that country was neutral. These rules are (i) that submarines found submerged outside certain certain limited areas to be agreed upon will be treated as hostile; (ii) that submarines on the surface the same areas will be treated as hostile unless accompanied by a French surface warship.

(d) Desired that policy given in para (c) be communicated via Naval channels to the French Adty. and the C. in C., Medit., or in his absence C.S.3 is accordingly to inform Admiral Godfroy and to ask that the French will propose submarine exercise areas if they wish to make use of them. No action is to be taken by other addressees.

(e) Pending further instructions ships must be prepared for attack when meeting a French warship but should not repeat not fire the first shot.
(1st S.L. 0241/12 to A.I.G.9 and C. in C.'s)

For the present French warships under control of French Govt. should be treated as neutral war vessels if approaching a defended port.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2326/12, Adty. General Mge Home and Abroad 263A).

Defence of U.K.

Distinguishing marks for warships including minor war vessels to assist identification by coast batteries during attempted invasion (Adty. 1625/12. Message Home 675AZ).

War Diary

12.7.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

My 1109/12. Request you institute forthwith a patrol across North Channel using NORTHERN DAWN and NORTHERN GEM and any other Belfast Trawler Group available. (C. in C., W.A. 1334/12 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Patrol of North Channel

Take NORTHERN GEM under your orders and proceed forthwith in accordance with C. in C., W.A's 2031/11. Report time you estimate you can remain on Patrol. In the absence of further instructions return to Ardrossan on completion of patrol. Acknowledge. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0005/12 to NORTHERN DAWN).

Northern Patrol

I consider that we should improve our ability to patrol off Iceland and in northern waters so request that KINGSTON BERYL, KINGSTON ONYX, and NORTHERN REWARD may be returned to V.A.N.P. (C. in C., H.F. 1827/12).

My 1201 to NORFOLK. How can ship best assist you? (C. in C., H.F., 1214/12 to C. in C., W.A.). Request NORFOLK remain at short notice in Clyde for the present. (C. in C. H.F. 1504/12 to C. in C., W.A.).

Raise steam at one hours notice. (C. in C., H.F. 1222/12 to SOUTHAMPTON)

SPEARFISH — Orders to leave patrol 2200/16 (Capt. S.6 1431/12)

Dutch M/S forces at Falmouth — Names and orders for future employment (D.M.S. 1855/12).

SALMON — Return to base forthwith. Route. Bombing restrictions arranged. (Capt. (S) 3 2241/12).

Submarines — Positions and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600/13. Clyde Stadlandet TRUANT Q S M F 4530 TETRARCH Q S M F 0740 SUNFISH X Z M F 1730 SALMON X Z M F 0025 WILK J Z L Z 3500 SPEARFISH H 44 H One and Two H 49 leaves Dover am for Harwich proceeding escorted on the surface TRIAD T G V D 4520 proceeding on the surface to Rosyth. TIGRIS in Firth of Clyde to Rothesay. (V.A.(S) 1917/12, D.C. 2218/12).

War Diary

12.7.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines for Clyde

Your 1833/7 SEVERN on passage from Rosyth to Plymouth. OTWAY and OBERON due to sail Portsmouth to Clyde pm 12th Dutch submarines O.9. O.10 and O.23 on passage from Milford Haven to Rothesay. (C. in C., W.A. 2218/12 to Adty.)

Operations

Reconnaissance of Narvik

Unless you see any objection a cruiser with aircraft should be sent to reconnoitre Narvik to see whether there is any considerable concentration of M.Vs which might be used for an operation against Iceland. (1st S.L. 1108/12 to C. in C., H.F.).

Counter proposal that both battle cruisers and 5 destroyers be used, Swordfish from REPULSE being used for r.c., since GNEISENAU likely still in northern waters. Alternatively a Sunderland from Shetlands might be used. (C. in C., H.F. 1423/12).

Operation Purge Your 2240/8 and 1554/11, concur. N.C.S.O. in my command will be informed (C. in C., Rosyth 1644/12 to C. in C., Nore).

Brown Ridge Sweep 3 destroyers from Harwich will carry out a sweep eastward of mine barrier between 052 N. and 052:40 N. on the night of 12/13 and thereafter on alternate nights. This will be known as the Brown Ridge sweep. (V.A.(S) 1721/12 to submarines on patrol.

Submarine Patrol off French West Coast

A - My 1804/4. It is desired to institute a continuous patrol by one submarine off French West Coast, patrolto be maintained by TIGRIS, TALISMAN and CACHALOT operating from the Clyde.
B - My 1901/20/6 and my 1628/27/6 TIGRIS, TALISMAN and CACHALOT are to be lent to 7th S/F temporarily.
E - Escort to and from patrol will be required between Clyde and 50:0 N. Concurrence of Netherlands Authorities is being sought for T.B. Z 6 to be employed on this service as temporary measure.
(V.A.(S) 1509/12 C. in C., W.A. 2043/12).

War Diary

12.7.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

E-Boats activity suspected North Foreland. (C. in C., Nore, 0027/12).

Boulogne — E-Boats in Harbour attacked by aircraft. Damage not observed. (Chatham Broadcast 0138/12 to H.Q.C.C.)

Willemscoord — 4 E-Boats in Harbour during night 12/13. (I.C. 0510/40).

Air

British Air Activity

Boulogne — E-boats in Harbour attacked. Results not observed. (Chatham Broadcast 0138/12). Barges etc. attacked. 2 bombs on cluster of barges and seaplane at S. end of basin (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 2300/12).

Skagerrak — Aircraft r.c. nothing to report (C. in C., Rosyth 1842/12).

St. Nazaire — Report of r.c. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 2245/12).

Texel — One Patrol Vessel bombed 6' N. of Texel. No result observed (I.C. 0510/40).

Enemy Air Activity

Submarine H 28 — Bombed 1307 whilst returning through Gap E. (S.O. Submarines Harwich, 2305/12).

Enemy aircraft bombing at 52:11 N., 2:0 E. (ANTHONY 0503/12).

Enemy aircraft bombed trawler at 52:0 N., 1:54 E. No hits. (WHITSHED 0504/12).

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Convoy FS 19 attacked, HORNCHURCH sunk

Convoy FS 19 attacked by 12 bombers in formations of threes between 0830 and 0930 today Friday in position 60° 12 miles Orfordness. Enemy attacked from the S.W. from behind cloud patches. Large number of bombs dropped but no direct hits. S.S. HORNCHURCH sank at 0945 as a result of near miss at 0840. No casualties to personnel all of which were landed at Harwich in WIDGEON. 3 Enemy planes seen to crash in sea as a result of attacks by fighters. A/A Fire from Convoy and escort kept enemy at about 4000 feet. No dive bombing was seen. (WALLACE 2211/12).

Enemy aircraft bombing 52:0 N., 2:0 E. (VERITY 0833/12) (WALLACE 0835/12). Fighters being sent (W/T Nore 0847/12). HORNCHURCH holed off Aldeburgh and sinking (Humber Radio. Recd. 0856/12). Sunk see CASUALTIES.

Help Booty. 52:4 N., 1:50 E. (WALLACE 0927/12). Fighters being sent (Nore W/T 0940/12). Result of attack HORNCHURCH sunk in position 060 Orfordness 13. No further damage. (WALLACE 1015/12 to C. in C., Nore).

Aberdeen

Air Raid at 1245/12. No damage to Adty. property or personnel. Raider crashed in flames at 1255/12 at Broomhill, suburb of Aberdeen. Hall Russell's shipyard badly damaged by 3 heavy H.E. bombs. No damage to H.M.Ships building or under repair, 20 K., 50 W. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1323/12, 1711/12).

Newport
AMBUSCADE

2 bombs dropped in docks areas 1645. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1845/12). Bombed 52:5 N., 1:53 E. (AMBUSCADE 1717/12).

HESPERUS

Bombed 1723/12 300° 48:0 N., 9:0 W. (? 2:0 E) 24 miles (HESPERUS 1705/12, 1723/12)

HIGHLANDER

Bombed 110° 49:0 N., 10:0 W. 27 miles (HIGHLANDER 1728/12).

H.M.S. JOSEWYN

Bombed and machine gunned off Isle of Wight 1735 (JOSEWYN 1739/12).

HOME COMMANDS

Air (Contd.)

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

VOLANTE sunk — Grimsby trawler bombed and machine gunned and sunk 10 miles S, Whale Back Nock (about 50 miles off E-coast Iceland) 0230/12. 2 bombs, Capt. killed, 1 crew badly wounded, remainder probably landed safely about 1700/12, 15 miles S. Budareyi. (Alabaster, Reykjavik, 2104/12, F.O.I.C. Iceland 2045/12).

Portland — Air raid at 1305/12. Six bombs. No damage. (I.C. 0510/40).

Mining

Large numbers of Floating Mines. (Submarine H.28 1015/12).

Liverpool FURIOUS — FURIOUS to be held until Channel has been swept for mines (C. in C., H.F. 1216/12). Weather unsuitable for sweeping today. QZS 130 will be searched for moored and magnetic mines when weather moderates. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1512/12).

Loch Ewe — 1548/12 M/D BURLINGTON exploded mine 007 - ½ 1.27 miles Rudha Man Sason triangle, no serious damage to ship. 0 trawlers have completed sweep and returned to Stornoway (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1945/12).

Amble — Port now open. Details of approach channel. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2344/12).

Enemy Intelligence.

2 destroyers bearing 200 one mile course 010 speed 17 knots from 51:54 N. 3:0 E. (Submarines H 28, 0155/12 to Adty.)

Unknown Vessel at 53:15 N., 4:51 E. at 0255/12 fired at aircraft. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0625/12).

C. in C., W.A. 1109/12 was destroyed by D.N.I.'s orders. Any ship wearing Russian colours to be examined & every precaution taken. (C. in C. H.F. 1203/12 to SEVERN).

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Summary of aircraft reports of barges and shipping in Belgian canals and ports and Cherbourg. (D.D.I.C. 2114/12).

R.C. 8/7 — Photographs of r.c. of Trondheim on 8/7 appear to show one HIPPER to E. of Monkholmen I. and one LEIPZIG to west of Island very near shore. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1840/12).

R.C. 9/7 — One HIPPER and 3 destroyers probably MAAS type in Werfthaven at Bremen. (H.Q.B.C.T.H.I. 2213/12)

Boulogne — 2 M.Vs possibly armed auxiliaries, in Harbour at 2027/12. (I.C. 0510/40).

Shipping

OA Convoys — To assemble and be routed at Methil commencing with OA 186 due to leave Methil 18/7 (Adty. 1333/11, C. in C., Rosyth 1451/12).

Independent Shipping — Cancel my 1626/9 para 1 and substitute: Homeward bound independent shipping is to be sailed to arrive throught Northern Approaches. Ships bound for East coast ports are to be routed to Clyde only (D.T.D. 1540/12 to C. in C.'s etc. Home and Abroad).

Minches — Route for shipping through (D.T.D. 1551/12).

Miscellaneous

Following extract from SUSSEX R. of P.: 2027/11 a signal was intercepted indicating that a ship had sighted or was being attacked by a raider viz RRRR 10-24. Signal then ceased, no D/F bearing could be obtained. Strength of signals indicated that vessel was at least 300 miles distant. Ends. SUSSEX is estimated to have been approximately in position 57:0 N. 27:0 W. at this time. Nothing is known of this report in RODNEY. FURIOUS is to report whether she intercepted this signal giving any details known. (C. in C., H.F. 2317/12).
Reply. Signal was not intercepted by FURIOUS (FURIOUS 0526/13).

War Diary

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Weather

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	S.E. to S. moderate in S. and centre, N.E. gale in N.	Good in S, moderate in centre, poor with local fog in N.	Similar S, and centre. Wind veering and moderating slowly in N.
Channel	S.W. light in E. W. moderate to fresh in W.	Very good.	Similar.
Western Approaches	New strong to gale.	Very good.	Similar.
Dutch Coast	S. or S.E. moderate.	Moderate or good.	Similar.
Heligoland Bight Skagerrak	N. to N.E. gale west of Ireland, Stornoway, Lerwick		

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Submarines — My 2232/5 and your 1357/8. Instructions have now been issued to ships and aircraft of N.A. Station to attack French submarines if submerged or on the surface unescorted provided they are not within 20 miles of French or French Colonial territory. (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty., 1306/12).

Azores Patrol, DELHI — To ensure that we are not forestalled in the Azores, it is desired to establish a patrol with object of preventing an enemy landing. Although there is now no indication that enemy contemplates such an operation, weakness of defences are such that small German force from Coast of France or elsewhere might attempt it. DELHI is transferred to the command of F.O.C.N.A. for this purpose. F.O.C.N.A. requested to report extent to which patrol can be maintained, DELHI being based on Gibraltar. (1st S.L., 2355/12).

South Atlantic

Convoys. Warning of French Aircraft — S.L.39 escorted by DUNVEGAN CASTLE sailed from Freetown 0600 zone plus 1, 9/7. Outgoing S.L.F.39 sailed from Freetown 1030/11. Air patrol from Freetown to a depth of 50 (?) miles with Walrus amphibians. Inaccurate bombing attacks by French aircraft were carried out on H.M. ships off Dakar after operations against RICHELIEU. You should be ready for possible further reprisals, but should not take action unless attacked. (C. in C.S.A., to ASTURIAS, CANTON, 0947/12).

MALOJA — My 1915/3. MALOJA on relief by local escort to proceed independently to Greenock, arriving 18/7, to return to Freetown not later than 1/8. (C. in C.S.A., 1201/12)

Routes. Shipping — My 1935/2. Cancel para. 3 and substitute - The English Channel is not to be used by ocean-going shipping. For the present fast independent ships from south may enter Irish Sea by Western Approaches, but from now onwards all other homeward bound independent shipping to be sailed to arrive through Northern Approaches. (C. in C.S.A., to S.O.I.'s Capetown and Freetown, 1312/12)

Fuelling — Request instructions where ships unable to carry sufficient fuel to reach U.K. from Freetown should bunker, observing Dakar, St. Vincent and Canary Islands are now ruled out and Gibraltar appears undesirable. Could Azores or Lisbon be used? (C. in C.S.A., to Admty., 1807/12)

Cape Verde Patrol — Although no indication that enemy contemplates any offensive action against Cape Verde Islands, weakness of the defences may possibly tempt him. Request that as often as forces at your disposal admit you

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Cape Verde Patrol (Ctd.) will arrange a patrol of the islands, keeping Admiralty informed of your general intentions. (1st S.L., to C.in C.S.A., 2356/12)

Mediterranean

GLENOCHRY Route Glen Line GLENOCHRY, 18 knots, arriving Gibraltar 24/7 with aircraft and stores for Malta and Middle East. Question of route, whether via Cape. C. in C. Med. to report which route he considers should be taken, and if direct from Gibraltar to Malta, to signal an outline plan for operation on the assumption that ships as necessary from Force H will be placed under his orders. (1st.S.L.0308/12)

Admty. 0308/12. In view of large consignments for Middle East, the present uncertain conditions in French North Africa, and the review of situation by S.O. Force H in his 1210/11 and 1212/11, I consider better to route GLENOCHRY round the Cape on this occasion. Should be quite feasible to pass her through to Malta from Egypt. (C. in C., Med., 0737/12)

Admty. 0308/12. If direct passage impracticable, suggesting erect 12 Hurricanes for Malta at Gibraltar, transporting them to longitude 6 or 7 degrees E. on ARK ROYAL's flight deck, and flying them off at dawn for Malta, accompanied by one Blenheim for navigational purposes. (F.O., Force H 1441/12 to C. in C., Med.)

My 2053/9, re civil shelter scheme in Malta. If my request approved, opportunity for fast transport may be provided by your 0308/12. (V.A., Malta, to Admty., 2315/12).

GLENOCHRY now at King George V. Dock, London, to be sailed soon as possible for Liverpool to embark aircraft, etc., ready to sail p.m. 13/7. Escort orders. (D.O.D.(H), 2354/12).

Battle Fleet WARSPITE, 2 cruisers and 4 destroyers will be in position 326° 150 miles from Mersa Matruh at 1500 steering for Mersa Matruh at 18 knots. Is fighter support possible? (C. in C. Med. to 252 Wing, 1201/12). Your 1201. 2 flights of Blenheim fighters at 10 minute interval are being despatched now via Mersa Matruh. (R.A.C., Alexandria, to C. in C., 1500/12)

Operations, July 6-10. Connected account, in amplification of short signals previously sent. (C. in C., Med., 2125/12, see Mediterranean Volume)

War Diary

12.7.40
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Fleet Bombed — Fleet left vicinity of Malta 0800/11, covering convoy. Fast convoy due Alexandria 0800/13, slow convoy at dawn 15/7. Latter and all forces bombed several times, 1st B.S. and EAGLE heavily yesterday 11/7. WARSPITE and attendant ships continuously bombed from Cyrenaican coast since 0900. Heavy expenditure of A/A ammunition by all ships, few casualties, and no further damage up to date. (C. in C., Med., 1125/12).

Evacuations. — Agreed with C. in C., East Indies to evacuate families as suitable shipping in convoys becomes available. (C. in C., Middle East, 1410/12)

Mails — Your 75852 (M.O.5) 8/7. Trust this service will start soon and include provision for carriage of mails. No mails received for more than six weeks. Morale of troops will suffer if satisfactory arrangements for mails not provided. (C. in C., Middle East, to W.O., 1432/12).

Cutting Cables — Your 1104/7, cutting cable between Barcelona and Marseilles. Concur in proposal to use MIRROR, but operation is to be in abeyance until further orders. (D.S.D., to F.O.C.N.A., 1539/12).

A/S Operations — Admty. 1321/10, PANDORA and PROTEUS reverting to operational control of C. in C., Med. Appears that an Italian U-boat patrol is established in vicinity of Alboran Island. Should like to employ PANDORA and PROTEUS on A/S operations against this patrol. (F.O.C., Force H., to C. in C., Med., 2107/12).

Greek Incidents — Bombing attack on ship at Grabusa due to presence of BRITISH UNION (see Air). Italians apologised for error. No damage or casualties. Greek destroyer HYDRA left Milos on hearing of incident and 3 unknown bombers attacked her without result. Greek inquiry whether these were British aircraft who mistook her for Italian destroyer. What shall I reply? (Sir M. Palairet, Athens, to C. in C. Med., 1932/12)

Air

BRITISH UNION — (See 11/7) 6987 tons. Still attacked, 3 Italian planes. (BRITISH UNION, 1040/12). Destroyers coming at dusk to escort you to Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 1228/12, to BRITISH UNION)

BRITISH UNION at anchor attacked by aircraft about noon, no hits. Has moved to near Cape Kutri. Greeks request urgently that she leave territorial waters during night, not only to avoid air attacks tomorrow but also further complications with Italian Government. (N.A., Athens, 2029/12).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Air (Ctd.)

Air Targets — Ref. 1633/9 from Governor of Malta. Admiralty view is that selection of targets and use of shore-based aircraft should be left to the discretion of the local commands. (5th S.L., to W.O., 1314/12)

East Indies

Red Sea Convoys — Possibility of speeding up. With my present force, cycle can be reduced from present 24 days to probable minimum of 15 days, if Aden is made assembly port for northbound ships not carrying troops, such ships proceed to Aden independently without escorts or special cover, and ships carrying troops are escorted in convoys which are sailed from Bombay, Mombasa, etc., so as to join supply ship convoy off Aden. Consider risk of air and submarine attack on supply ships collected in insecure outer anchorages at Aden and on single supply ships proceeding independently through Gulf of Aden should be accepted if speed up of convoy is essential. Further proposals. (C. in C.E.I., 1426Z/12).

Captured Submarine — Your 1634/6. Approved to sail Italian s/m GALILIO GALILEI as convenient utilising officers ex-KHARTOUM in conjunction with men ex-SHOREHAM if practicable. (C. in C.E.I., 0658Z/12).

Air Defence Aden — Summary of operations, bombing and fighter attack on Assab petrol dump, etc., mentions day's raid demonstrated poor chances Gladiators effecting interception owing lack of speed, unless their luck is in. (Air H.Q., Aden, 1825/13).

China

French Indo-China — French C. in C. has asked if any objection to AMIRAL CHARNER towing ARGUS from Hong Kong to Haiphong for defence of French Indo-China. ARGUS is of little military value and unless some questio of principle is involved I recommend agreement. (C. in C. China, 0451Z/12). Concur (A.C.N.S.(F) 1809/13).

French Shipping — Admty. 2022/11. British, Allied and foreign chartered shipping has resumed normal trade to Indo-China. French shipping is allowed to run normally within China Station. Request (1) your instructions concerning French possessions on your station under category (b). (2) Whether you have any objection to French inter-station trade on normal lines. (C. in C. China, to C.in C.E.I., A.C.N.B., etc., 0531Z/12)

War Diary

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China (Ctd.)

CARAIBE Released

Pass following signal to Vice-Admiral Decoux from 1st Sea Lord with reference to his message re CARAIBE:-

"It is much regretted that this action had to be taken at the time. In view of the close co-operation which has existed between yourself and Admiral Noble, a co-operation which we are sure will continue, I have much pleasure in informing you that CARAIBE will be sailed for Madagascar with her crew, if you will confirm that during the war she will remain on your station. It is not the intention of H.M. Government to take any further action against French naval forces under your command". (1st S.L., 0254/12)

Mines, Dutch E.I.

Meeting at Singapore 10/7 with representative of C. in C., Netherlands E.I., re mining policy. They have no mines available and would like to purchase from British stocks. Mines to be laid by Dutch in order of priority (a) Durian Strait, (b) Rhio Strait, (c) in territorial waters on south side of Singapore Straits. Details of numbers of mines required, etc. (C. in C., China, 0835/12).

SHEWCKING Incident.

Lines of reply to Japanese. Regret master did not comply with order to stop. Right of Japanese Navy to stop not admitted. Consider case too weak to have protested against firing. Japanese helpful at interview. Anticipate early and reasonable settlement of this phase of incident. Regarding actions of master, see my 2228Z/10, all firms and masters being reminded of importance of stopping when so ordered by Japanese. (N.L.O., Shanghai, to C.in C., China, 0856Z/12)

Your 0311Z/11, re transport of ammunition. Shipment approved H.M. Ambassador on 27/6. Butterfield and Swires have frequently made such shipments. Consul-General Tientsin, reports ammunition was surplus, and Japanese Tientsin military authorities knew of shipment and raised no objection. (N.L.O. Shanghai, to C.in C., China, 0819Z/12).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

SOBIESKI — Arrived St. John's N.F., today with 1600 internees for Canada but no tents for Newfoundland. Captain requires confirmation that he should proceed at once to Quebec to disembark internees. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 0830/12)

Your 0830. Proceed Quebec with all despatch where all internees will be disembarked. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0921/12).

Martinique, Watch Withdrawn. — My 0241. Watch on French warships at Martinique and Guadeloupe should be withdrawn. FIJI and ILLUSTRIOUS to return to Scapa. (D.O.D.(F), 1613/12).

Convoys — Proposals for junctions, D/F signals, sailing days, and call signs, (re your 1629/11). (C.O.A.C., Halifax, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1715/12).

French Shipping — Your 0531Z/12. (1) British shipping not permitted to enter French ports in West Indies. French shipping in Caribbean Sea now allowed to continue to trade. (2) No objection subject to Admiralty approval. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2211/12 to C. in C., China).

War Diary

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Friday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

WILJA — Polish. Serious engine trouble and proceeding to Vigo at 4 knots. (ENCHANTRESS 0630/12 to C. in C.W.A.)

LARS KRUSE — Steering gear defective. Have ordered her to Milford Haven. (Capt. D.9.0859/12 to C.in C.W.A.)

HORNCHURCH — Sunk about 7 miles 074° from Aldeburgh Coast guard Station at 0930/12. Two survivors picked up by Warship. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1120/12 to C. in C. Nore). No casualties (WIDGEON 0950/12 to WALLACE)

War Diary

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Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked

PENNLAND false report

DUTCH
~~British~~, (16381 tons) torpedoed in position 51:35 N., 6:12 W. (SANDWICH, 2147/12). Cancel my 2147. Ship reported being torpedoed on feeling explosion of depth charge dropped on contact by HARVESTER. (SANDWICH, 2230/12).

JANNA — (Norw. 2197 tons) sunk by submarine 50:34 N., 12:10 W. (D.S. 314)

Submarines Reported

1423 — VERDUN reports contact in position 52:09 N., 1:52 E., VIMIERA joining her. Submarine H.28 now in sight to eastward. (LONDONDERRY, 1423/12).
Contact reported non-sub. (LONDONDERRY, 1528/12).

Estimated dispositions:-

2 in Western Approaches (I.C., 0508/40).

Mediterranean and East Indies

Submarines Reported

0700 — R.A.F. Palestine report one submarine 35:34 N., 34:06 E., course 045° at 0700. One submarine.

1045 — (35:22 N., 33:34 E.) course 090° at 1045. (Alexandria W/T, 1215/12). Both positions off N. coast of Cyprus. (I.C., 0510/40).

1610 — Off Cotrone, Calabria (D.S. 312).

- — 3, perhaps 4, submarines reported by aircraft in Tobruk Harbour (I.C. 0511/40).

Submarines Attacked

Flying boats report sinking 1 Italian submarine off Malta am/12 and another 38:35 N., 17:09 E., 180° Cotronne 30', (60 miles N.E. of Cape Spartivento) in the afternoon. On morning 12/7 a further submarine is reported to have been damaged as result of attacks by A/S trawlers CORAL and JADE off Malta . (Cabinet War Room Record, No.314). (I.C. 0510/40).
Sunderlands 228 Sqdn. detached Malta made three reccos. Ionian Sea. 1 Italian submarine attacked and reported sunk position 36:48 N., 15:45 E. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., Summary 1816/13).
(No time given).

War Diary

12.7.40
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BIRGIT — Has left for Lake Vanern. (Consul, Goteborg 1032/12)

DANZIG — Has arrived with general cargo. (Consul, Goteborg, 1032/12)

FRANZ JURGEN — Arrived Swinemunde 11/7. (D.S.312)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

PRESIDENT HONDUCH — Trawler, arrived with armed guard. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 2020/12).

In view of repeated air attacks on Falmouth, necessary to move the French ships now there. If French masters still refuse to sail under armed guard, arrangements as an emergency measure to be made to remove French crews and provide steaming parties of naval ratings. Destinations :-

CASAMANCE	5817 tons, Avonmouth.
ILE DE BATZ	5755 tons, Swansea.
BADDASOA	558 tons, Swansea.
CAP EL HANK	2307 tons, Workington
FORT LAMY	5234 tons, Avonmouth
DJURDJURA	4070 tons, Manchester
MYSON	4564 tons, Manchester
LEON MARTIN	1951 tons, Clyde
PORT LYAUTEY	540 tons, Clyde

Movement of first four most urgent.
(A.C.N.S. (T), to C. in C.W.A., 1721/12)

War Diary

13.7.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Your 2052/3. It is considered an urgent requirement to provide an antiboat defence at entrance to Chichester Harbour. This is being done by. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1847/13 to Adty.)

Adty. 1625/12/7. Considered very essential for Minor war vessels carrying out Patrol duties to be able to identify themselves if challenged or fired upon by shore batteries and other Military Forces e.g. when withdrawing from Patrol area for shelter etc. Proposed method.
(C. in C., Rosyth, 1910/13 to to Adty.)

Policy

Off shore Patrols

Reference off shore patrol organisation. In this area I have ordered these small craft to be out from sunset to sunrise and if visibility is low, because they are receiving the attention of the dive bombers and it seems only a question of time before we lose them. As critical time of favourable moon and tide conditions is now passing suggest general policy should be overhauled as these vessels in existing small numbers will not last physically or materially for a long period (Portsmouth 1303/13 to Adty.)

Your telephone enquiry of 8/7 re Adty. G.M.664 AZ. Eire Govt. are aware of the instructions, but it is important that they should not be embarrassed by these instructions becoming public or by their knowledge of them being divulged to the Ulster Govt. (A.C.N.S.H. 1648/13 to F.O.I.C., Belfast).

Enemy warships and aircraft of every description including transports and troop carrying aircraft should be attacked by warships and aircraft whenever found in Eire territorial waters. If suspicious vessels are seen in Eire territorial waters and aircraft may enter to investigate. (Air Ministry 1900/13).

Your 1213/12 (re a Chasseur to lead new M/L Division). Consideration will be given to this proposal. (D.A.S. 1920/13 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

When speed of French S/M Chasers has been proved, request you will report whether any are suitable for Leaders of M/L. Flotillas. (D.A.S.W. 1921/13 to C. in C., Portsmouth and W.A.)

War Diary

13.7.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

SOUTHAMPTON)
GLASGOW)

Revert to usual notice for steam (C. in C., H.F. 0922/13).

Submarine H.44

Orders for leaving patrol 15/7 (50 submarines Harwich 0905/13).

BROKE

To relieve HIGHLANDER and HESPERUS escorting S.S. OREGON in tow SALVONIA to Milford Haven. (C. in C., W.A., 1124/13).

Patrol off Ireland

Request you will sail NORTHERN DAWN and NORTHERN GEM when ready to comply with my 2031/11. (C. in C., W.A. 2048/13 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Five destroyers of 13th D.F. are to be sailed tomorrow Sunday 14th July at best possible speed and are to join C. in C., Home Fleet. Expected date and time of arrival and names of ships to be reported.

On their arrival three worked up Hunt Class are to join V.A. Dover and three G. Class from 1st D.F. HOTSPUR and ENCOUNTER will be sailed for Gibraltar.
(1st. S.L. 1913/13).

C.S.2 1405/13. I absolutely agree except that I consider four days is too little . There is no use pretending ships are effcient unless they are given facilities for practices.
(C. in C., H.F. 2009/13 to C. in C., Nore).

Revert to usual notice for steam at 2200/13.
(C. in C., W.A. 2047/13 to NORFOLK).

Operations

Operation P.F. Orders for. (C. in C. Nore 1926/13 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

War Diary

13.7.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British Air Activity

Willemsoord — Report of attack. Results not observed (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0240/13).

2 armed trawlers — Attacked 0535 53:27 N., 4:56 E. (Donibristle 0825/13).

Harlingen — Bombed at 2220/13. Large explosions and fires near Quay and Warehouses. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0231/14).

Berges — Bombed at 2355/13 on Bruges-Ostend Canal. Several hits claimed. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0305/14).

Two E-boats in Basin at Nieuwepiep machine-gunned by aircraft at 2230/12. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1235/13)

2 minesweepers at 53:50 N., 4:57 E. bombed and machine-gunned at 0538/13. Near misses and M/G hits. (H.Q.C.C. 1700/13).

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy "Pilot" — Attacked 51:59 N. 1:48 E. (off Felixstowe) (WESTON 1210/13). Attacked 51:54 N., 4:47 E. (LOWESTOFT 1220/13). Large number bombs no hits. (LOWESTOFT 1246/13).

Convoy "Arena" — Attacked 270, 52 N. 2 E. 10. 12 aircraft bombing. (STORK 1221/13).

ARROW — Bombed 52:0 N. 1:50 E. (ARROW 1221/13).

ENCHANTRESS — Bombed 47: N., (ENCHANTRESS, 1535/13) with convoy H.G.37.200' W. by S. of Brest (I.C. 0511/40).

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

GALWAY COAST — Bombed off Portland at 1000/13. Landed one seaman at Poole with shrapnel wounds. (N.O.I.C. Poole ~~with shrapnel~~ 1627/13 to Adty.)

DAMITO, OSTA — M/S trawlers. Bombed at 1000/13 off Portland. Slight damage and Mate of DAMITO killed. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1012/14 to Adty.)

SAON — A/S trawler on patrol 2' S. of Dover Harbour bombed by 8 Dive-Bombers at 1718/13. Slight damage and some casualties. (V.A. Dover 2101/13 to Adty.).

Portland — At 1500/13 a heavy Air-Battle over West Bay. No bombs or casualties in Portland area. One Enemy bomber crashed on Chesil Beach; one prisoner. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1012/14 to Adty.)

HINIESTA — Yacht, with convoy C.W.4, bombed 12' S. of Anvil Point (portishead Radio 1730/13).

Mining

Parachute Mines were dropped at 0111/13 off Tynemouth. The Tyne is closed (I.C. 0510/40).

Amble is again open. (I.C. 0510/40).

A further Mine has been exploded in Loch Ewe. (I.C. 0510/40).

Minelaying suspected off Harwich and N. Foreland during night 13/14. (D.C.N.S. 314).

Large white seaplane, suspected minelayer, reported at 1630/13 escorted by 3 Junkers 11 miles 136° from Portland Bill by Master of ADAPTITY. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1655/14 to C. in C., W.A.).

War Diary

13.7.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation M.N. PLOVER and VAN DER ZAAN escorted by M.T.B. will be carrying out operation M.N. near 51:10 N., 01:55 E. during night 13/14 July returning to North Goodwin L.V. about 0330/14. Request immediate Fighter protection may be available in the event of an X Raid approaching them at any time after first light and also if called for. (V.A. Dover 1005/13 to A.O.C. 11th Fighter Group).

Enemy Intelligence

Boulogne At 1623/13 six small ships, possibly fishing steamers, in Southern part of harbour (H.Q.F.C. Chatham, 2005/13 to Adty.)

Aldeburgh Two small ships seen 35' E.S.E. of Aldeburgh at 2300/13 (H.Q.B.C. 2042/14).

Emden Ship about 6000 tons in Basin S. of Harbour entrance at 2345/13. (H.Q.B.C. 2042/14).

Shipping

Reference Adty. 1230/28/5 re use of A.A. guns and L.GS in Merchant Ships in port.
(1) Para. 1 states Merchant Ships "may" in their own defence engage hostile aircraft. Experience shows that in many instances guns not manned when vessels in port. Suggest consideration should be given to issue of more definite instructions to ensure that crews are available to man guns in event of attack. Suggest para. 1 (A) not now necessary. Request your views and if you agree may necessary instruction be issued to all concerned. (Dacoast 1442/13 to Adty.)

OA convoys Northabout Cancel my 1539/5. (C. in C., W.A., 1434/13 to C. in C., Nore).

War Diary

13.7.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

(A) My 1744/8 para. B, for 1000 tons gross read 1600 tons gross.
(B) Ships within the above limit now in South coast ports and ready to sail may proceed to their destination independently through the English Channel pending the introduction of Channel Convoys both ways for which instructions will shortly be issued. (D.T.D. 2342/13)

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Light variable, N.E. fresh to strong in North.	Moderate to good.	Similar in South, Fresh to strong N.E. to N. winds in Northern half.
Channel	S.W. to W. moderate to fresh.	Moderate to good.	Similar.
Western Approaches	S.W. to W. moderate to fresh.	Good.	Similar.
No reports received, probable weather:-			
Horns Reef	N.W. moderate.	Moderate to good.	Wind backing to S.W. or S.
S.W. Norway	N.E. to N. moderate to fresh.	Moderate.	Wind veering to E.
Dutch Coast	Light variable.	Good, local haze.	Southerly wind, moderate.

War Diary. FOREIGN STATIONS. 13.7.40. Saturday.

North Atlantic.

Casablanca.	F.O.C.N.A., 0942/13, see Mediterranean.
Gibraltar, Evacuees.	Hoped it might be possible to avoid return here of evacuees, but arrival not unexpected. Have been compelled to land them temporarily as ships overcrowded and had to be cleaned and victualled. Problem of getting them away again will not be easy. (Governor, Gib., 1324/13, to W.O.).
Azores Patrol, DELHI.	Admty. 2355/12. Endurance of DELHI is insufficient for her usefully to operate off Azores from Gibraltar unless arrangements can be made for an attendant oiler. Without refuelling, and allowing a 20% margin, DELHI could only operate for one day and six days would be spent on passage. (F.O.I.C., Gibraltar, 1850/13).
British Ships in French Ports.	Admiralty. 2022/11, para (a) (2). Request information at which French ports in your British ships are detained. British ships are detained at Ports Lyautey and Casablanca in my area (S.O.1., Gib. to S. O.1's Malta, Alexandria, Freetown and Capetown, 1002/13, 1220/14).

South Atlantic.

Cameroons, French Proclamation.	Situation report. Decree signed at Duala severing allegiance with French Government and proclaiming the Governor as supreme. Full support of British Government is affirmed. Political situation has undoubtedly improved but should not be considered crystallised until reactions to decree are seen and effort of colony being cut off is known. Our M.L.O. leaves Abijan to-day at request of French authorities. (G.O.C., (See also DRAGON, 1900/11)
Crew of CARAIBE.	My 1812/11. French BERNARDIN DE ST. PIERRE will sail from Capetown 14/7. C. in C. E.I., 1431/8. Master has undertaken to call at Mombasa first to embark French nationals. As requested by C. in C. E.I., he has not been informed these are crew of CARAIBE. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1047/13).
French trade.	Your 0531Z/12. French ships not to proceed north of Freetown, and owing to fluctuation and uncertainty of situation in French colonies south of Freetown calls at ports in these colonies must be at my discretion. No objection to inter-station trade provided ships call at Capetown for latest instructions (C. in C. S.A., 0954/13).

War Diary. FOREIGN STATIONS. 13.7.40. Saturday.

South Atlantic.

PRETORIA CASTLE. Route on leaving Rio de Janeiro, to give ALCANTARA chance of rendezvous. (R.A.S.A.D. 1133Z/13).

VINDICTIVE. Asking when may be expected at Freetown, (C. in C.S.A., 1147/13).

Mediterranean.

U-Boats. U-Boats are known to be in position south of Crete. (A/c of Mediterranean, 0330/13).

Casablanca. Reports from ships arriving from Casablanca with evacuees show that anti-British feeling is strong in French Navy there and that they appear to expect to be attacked by our forces. May I inform Ollive that no attack on Frenchnbattleship JEAN BART is contemplated in her present state. Think this might improve relations. (F.O.C.N.A., 0942/13).

Your 0942. You may inform Admiral Ollive in sense of para. (c) of Admty. 0241/12). (1st S.L. 1330/13).

Alboran I. patrol. Your 2107/12. Suggest these large s/m's are unsuitable for this employment and would prefer to employ them in a more offensive role. Request you return these two s/m's to rest at Gibraltar for the moment pending decision on your 1441/12. (C. in C. Med., to S.O.Force H., 1227/13).

Italian Propaganda. Continued announcements of Italian naval successes in local press will have bad effect if not conteracted. British radio often jammed and propaganda is forbidden. (Consul, Palma, to D.N.I., 1600/13).

Movements Summary. C. in C. Med. 1935/13.

Enemy Intelligence. 25 large vessels Tobruk including 6 destroyers and possibly 1 flotilla leader. 3 possibly 4 submarines. (H.Q., RAF, M.E. 1816/13).

Air.

Bombing, ROYAL SOVEREIGN. Enemy aircraft bombing, my position 238, S J S N (34° N., 26° E.) 19. (ROYAL SOVEREIGN, 1055/13).
Steer for Mersa Matruh. Have asked for fighter support. (C. in C. Med., to R.A.1 B.S., 1131/13).
Blenheims have been sent to your assistance at 1600 E. (N.O.I.C., Alexandria, 1436/13).

Position 120, 34° N., 26° E., 18 M L A 155, speed 16 knots. (F.O.C. 1 B.S., 1250/13).

War Diary.

13.7.40.
Saturday .

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air.

Aircraft in GLENOCHRY

H.Force suggestion that 12 Hurricanes for Malta and 1 Blenheim for navigation should be erected on ARK ROYAL deck and flown off for direct flight requires very careful thought. Suggest no final decision before GLENOCHRY reaches Gibraltar. (H.Q. Malta to Air Min.0930/13) S.O. Force H. 1441/12. Fully concur with proposal. As need for Hurricanes is so urgent in Malta consider it should be adopted. (C. in C. Med., 1225/13).

Aircraft in GLENOCHRY.

Pointing out difficulties of pilots untrained carriers taking off Hurricanes from ARK ROYAL. Submit advisability of flying off be carefully balanced against prospects of GLENOCHRY getting through direct. Importance of latter sufficient to warrant strong naval measures to this end. If these impracticable, suggest use of ARGUS or similar ship to convey contents GLENOCHRY Gib. to Malta and on to Egypt. (A.O.C., Mediterranean, 1545/13). See also 14/7.

Malta raids.

Enemy tactics last 2 days indicate effort to reduce our fighters effort by sending large formation fighters stepped up by flights. With present waning fighter effort reduced to 1 Hurricane and 2 Gladiators, anticipate some difficulty in keeping Italian aircraft reasonably respectful. Hope for early receipt of further Hurricanes, needed for attacks on bombers while Gladiators deal with fighters. (H.Q. Malta, to Air Min., 1630/13).

Reconnaissance.

Intelligence Summary, 33. (No naval incidents). H.Q., RAF., M.E. 1818/13).

Malta raids.

1st raid 1534 consisting of 12 fighters same as yesterday evident intention of knocking out our fighters before bombers arrive. 2nd raid by bombers 2215, several bombs on De Limara and in Marsa Muscetto harbour, no details of casualties. (F.O.I.C. Malta 2253/13).

German A/C's marked with Red Cross.

X.909 13/7. German aircraft marked with a red cross have recently been flying near H.M. ships and convoys and British coast. Any such aircraft which comes within range of H.M.ships or of coastal A/A defences is to be fired on. Any enemy aircraft bearing red cross markings encountered by British aircraft (A) or approaching British territory or territory in British occupation, or (B) near

War Diary. 13.7.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Air.

German A/C's marked with Red Cross. — or approaching British or Allied ships or warships is to be attacked. (Air Min., 1235/13).

East Indies.

CARAIBE. — For information, CARAIBE is at present at Mombasa. Officers and men landed on parole and under guard respectively. Captain cannot answer for discipline of about 50 of his men. Intention has been to ship all personnel to Madagascar, but arrangements now in abeyance pending reply of Admiral Decoux to Admty. 0254/12. (C. in C., E.I., to C. in C. China, 0538Z/13)

Minelaying. — Decided to carry out air minelaying operations against Italian ports in East Africa with small force based on Aden. Arrangements for aircraft, personnel and equipment. (Air Minister to A.H.Q. Aden, 1936/13).

China.

French attitude. — Report of Capt. Duncan, at Hanoi, mentions that recent detention of French shipping has drawn attention to vulnerability of supplies arriving from other than Japanese sources. He considers trade agreement almost certainly under negotiation, diminishing stocks will favour Japanese penetration. Discusses reations to Oran. (G.O.C., Malaya, to W.O., 1600/13).

CARAIBE. — Before passing message in your 0254/12, request confirmation that no restrictions are to be placed on movement of French CARAIBE in vicinity of Italian Somaliland, which is on Admiral Decoux's station. (C. in C. China, 0253Z/13, to Admty). Confirmed (1st S.L., 1212/13).

SHENGKING Incident. — Question of Japanese protest settled. Ship sails a.m. to-morrow Sunday. Japanese friendly. Detailed reports follows. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 1104Z/13).

Evacuation. — Consul-General, Manila, pressing for early removal of Hong Kong families to Australia. (G.O.C. Hong Kong, to W.O. 1608/13).

Your 2235/11. No suitable shipping available locally. Only big ships now visiting Hong Kong are one EMPRESS a month and two P and O. ships every three months.

War Diary.

13.7.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Am asking Australia, New Zealand and Malaya, vide my 0205/13. British Ship EMPRESS OF JAPAN will complete repairs and alterations limit deck accommodation by beginning August. The thousand civilians referred to in my 1105/9 are still here and not yet seriously involved. If no earlier opportunity occurs am sending them direct to Australia in EMPRESS OF JAPAN. (Cdre Hong Kong, 0255/13 to D.of S.T.)

America and West Indies.

RANPURA. To escort H.X. 58, subsequently proceeding Southampton. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1417/13).

Australia.

TIRRANNA. Requesting information concerning Norwegian ship TIRRANNA, carrying important service stores. (D.N.I., Melbourne, 0244Z/13).

War Diary. U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING. 13.7.40. Saturday.

S/M's Reported.

1156 Possible there may be two U-boats in your vicinity homeward bound from Western Approaches. (C. in C., W.A., to SKEENA, GARDENIA, FOLKESTONE, WINCHELSEA, 1156/13).

1212 Reliable fix, 53.30' N., 4.37' W. Reported by A/C escorting convoy H.X. 54. WANDERER to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 1501/13. H.Q. C.C. 1700/13).

A/c to attack s/m (15 Gec. Group H.Q. 1212/13). WARWICK ordered to attack. (C.in C. W.A., 1522/13). My 1522. A/C reported sighting periscope. British VIVA II obtained no contact. Second a/c searched vicinity without result. WARWICK and WANDERER to proceed Liverpool if no contact after searching the area. (C. in C. W.A. 1726/13) (15 Group, 1900/13).

2005 54-23 N. 2-14 E . 78° Flamborough Head 82', periscope reported. (I.C. 0511/40)

1936 and 2128 S.W. of Iceland, position not definable. (I.C. 0511/40).

Estimated dispositions:-

May be still 2 in Western Approaches, but one or both may now be due to leave for home. No other indications. (I.C. 0510/40-.

S/M's Attacked.

1212 By A/C "P" R.N.N.A.S. in position 53-30 N., 4-37' W. A/C was escorting Convoy H.X.54. (H.Q. C.C. 1700/13) Tip of periscope showing. Two 250-lb. bombs dropped. Not possible to estimate result. Destroyer arrived at 1225. (15 Group, 900/13).

Mediterranean and East Indies.

S/M's Reported.

36:48 N., 15:54 E., about 54 miles S.E. from Cape Possaro, Sicily. No time stated. Reported by A/C (D.S. 313).

S/M's Attacked.

1800/9. During Tuesday's operation, flying boat No. L.5803 attacked and claimed to have sunk an enemy submarine in position 37.18' N., 17.02' E. at 1800. I believe this loss has been admitted by Italians. (C. in C., Med., 0901/13).

12/7 1 Italian S/M attacked and reported sunk 36° 48' N 15° 54' E. (H.Q. RAF. M.E.1816/13).

War Diary

13.7.40.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

KOLLEBJORG — (Norwegian tanker 8,259 tons) left Aruba for N.E.I. 18/6 and was due Santos 3/7. Is overdue (D.S.312).

KERTOSONO — (Dutch 9,289 tons) left Curacao 24/6 due Freetown 5/7, is overdue (D.S.312).

GLENORCHY — D.G. gear reported unsatisfactory and ship in highly dangerous condition. Sailing postponed pending examination. (C. in C., Nore 2242/Z 13).

War Diary. 13.7.40.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LARISSA. Arrived from Istenbul, general cargo. (Galatz, 1352/13).

KARIBISCHES MEER. Tanker, Was at Tallinn 4/7 waiting for a cargo of whale oil. (I.C. 0510/40).

Small ships. 13 sailed from Riga during first week of July for German ports, 3 in ballast, remainder mostly loaded with timber. (I.C. 0510/40).

JANJE FRITZEN. Was ordered today to proceed to Bremen (D.S. 314)

BIRGIT. Left Gothenburg 12/7 for Lake Vanern, near Norrkoping (Sweden).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

RODI Arrived Alexandria. (N.C.S.O.Alexandria 2146/13).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

YOLANDE BERTIN
HORTENSIA BERTIN } Transferred to Panamanian flag and ownership to Wallem & Co, Panama. Vessels renamed GISELE and EVELYN respectively. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 0702/13).

SIDI-AISSA 2886 tons
BAALBECK 2115 tons } Left Famajusta, Cyprus 13/7 for Beirut, Syria, with troops, military stores and equipment. (Famajusta, 1634/13).

VILLE DE TAMATAVE
LE CONTE DE LISLE Arrived Tamatave 13/7. (Consul, Tananarivo, 1604/13).

War Diary

14.7.40
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Destroyers for Gibraltar.

My 1913/13. HOTSPUR and ENCOUNTER are to be sailed to Dover in time to leave with 3 G. class for Gibraltar. (D.D.O.D.H. 1048/14 to C. in C. Nore.)

Steam to be kept at 4 hours notice till further orders. (C. in C. H.F. 1631/14)

Raise steam at half an hour's notice (C.in C.H.F. 2305/14)

Unusual W/T activity indicates possibility of enemy move. All ships are to be brought to short notice for steam. (1st. S.L. 2323/14 to C.in C's.)

All available submarines are to be brought to one hour's notice. (V.A.S. 2351/14)

Submarines.

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/15. CLYDE TRUANT TETRARCH WILK SPEARFISH SUNFISH H.44 as in my 1629/13. SALMON proceeding on surface due Rosyth A.M./15 from North East. H. 31 N.L.W.T.3006 proceeding submerged by day to H.2. H.34. leaves Harwich 1500/15 proceeding on surface to H.2. (V.A.S.1722/14)

Operations

Operation AMBASSADOR

Orders for. (C.in C.W.A. 1524/14)
Air Escort for (H.Q.F.C. 1710/14)
Carry out Operation (C. in C.Portsmouth 1744/14 to SALADIN)

Operation P.F.

Operation P.F. is postponed 24 hours (C. in C.Nore 1719/14 to F.O.I.C.Yarmouth).

Cancel my 1719. Operation P.F. is taking place 2 hours late. (C. in C.Nore 1959/14 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

E-boats

Operation against E-boats.

All available M.T.B's. of First Flotilla to sail forthwith and repeat Operation ordered in my 1542/27th June. (C. in C. Nore 2001/14 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

Patrol A reports E-Boat (C. in C. Portsmouth 0248/14 to SHIKARI)

About 40 E-Boats reported at Emden P.M.14th (D.S.314)

3 E-Boats at Brest Military Port Entrance shown by PRU. Sortie. (P.I.E. 1545/15 to Adty.)

War Diary

14.7.40
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS (ctd.)

Air

British Air Activity

3 Patrol Vessels attacked by A/C. 5' W. of Texel at 2200/14. Results unknown. (I.C.0512/40)

Enemy Air Activity

MEDUSA — British (793 tons). Am being attacked by A/C. 095° Beachy Head 10' (MEDUSA 0220/14)

Channel Convoy — Fighters being sent to assist Channel Convoy. (C. in C.W.A. 0954/14 to RESTIGOUCHE)

STRATHAVER — Attacked by A/C at 48°27' N., 7°25' W. (Plymouth W/T. 1231/14) At 48°30'N., 7°17' W., at 1209/14. (Hiton Radio Recd. 1308/14)

A.M.C. ESPERANCE BAY — Attacked at 49°30' N., 6°40' W. (Portishead Radio 1250/14). VANOC sent (C. in C.W.A. 1438/14 to VANOC). Badly damaged aft. Proceeding to Lizard at slow speed. (C. in C.W.A. 1526/14 to VANOC) Tug being sent (C. in C.W.A. 1601/14 to ESPERANCE BAY) RESTIGOUCHE to escort (C. in C.W.A. 1733/14). 3 Ansons sent (C. in C.W.A. 1751/14).

HURRICANE — Help. 48°27' N., 8°38' W. (HURRICANE 1332/14) Help. 48°21' N., 8°16' W. (HURRICANE 1350/14) Only British ATHLONE CASTLE has been bombed. No damage so far (HURRICANE 1415/14 to C. in C.W.A.)

YUZBASI HAKKI — Turkish Sloop. Attacked at 1145/14 near Shambles by Twin-Engine A/C using Cannons, not bombs. One killed and Captain seriously injured. British delivery crew on board. (F.O.I.C.Portland 1450/14 to Adty.)

Coastal Convoy C.W.5. — Attacked at 1525/14 two miles S. of Dover by about 10 Dive Bombers. VANESSA main engines out of action. British ISLAND QUEEN and Norwegian BALDER damaged, and being brought with VANESSA to Dover. (V.A.Dover 1629/14 to Adty.)

ISLAND QUEEN — British (779 tons) sunk by bombs 350° Folkestone half a mile. Likely to be danger to navigation. (V.A.Dover. 1944/14 to Adty.) 2 killed and one wounded (D.S.314). Sank at 1705/14 (V.A.Dover 1808/14)

BALDER — Norwegian, 1129 tons. Damaged by bomb 2' S. of Dover. (V.A.Dover 1629/14) 4 killed, 10 wounded. (D.S.314).

MONS — British, 641 tons. Auxiliary Engines damaged by bomb at 1525/14. (V.A.Dover 1808/14)

War Diary

14.7.40
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

AIR

Enemy Air Activity (ctd.)

VANESSA — Damaged by near miss. No casualties. (V.A.Dover 1942/14 to Adty.) No hull damage. Ship cannot steam. (V.A. Dover 2004/14)

DEUCALION — 1796 tons. Attacked by A/C. in convoy on 5 July is now reported to have sunk. (D.S.314)

Mining

Harwich — Port closed owing to suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0027/14 to Adty.) Suspected area (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0039/14) Port now open (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1332/14 to Adty.)

Operation HN — Operation completed. (V.A.Dover 0351/14). (Laying of mines in Dover Straits by PLOVER and VAN DE ZAAN)

2 Mines exploded at 215° Goodwin Fork Buoy 2 cables. (V.A. Dover 2229/14 to Adty.)

Elbe. — 4 Magnetic Mines dropped in Elbe during night 13/14th. (D.C.N.S., 315).

Newhaven and Blyth-Tyne Inshore Channel are closed. (D.C.N.S.315)

2 Mines exploded 2½' East of Shipwash Light Vessel (I.C. 0512/40)

Enemy Intelligence

Two ships burning steaming lights 070° Berry Head 8' at 0030/14 steering N.E. Investigate. (C. in C.W.A. 0039/14 to RESTIGOUCHE)

Gravelines to Ostend — P.D.U. Sortie 13/7 shows negligible Barge activity. (P.D.U. 0150/14 to N.I.D.)

Boulogne. — Outer Harbour practically deserted. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0239/14).

Yarmouth — At 0540/14 two destroyers of doubtful nationality at 60' Yarmouth 070° heading S. at 10 knots. (H.Q.B.C. 2042/14)

Wilhelmshaven — SCHEER, TIRPITZ, one Torpedo-Boat. 2 T.B's. and one submarine added in Tirpitzhaven since 9/7, and one large M/V in Hipperhafen. (PRUI.1600/14)

War Diary

14.7.40
Sunday

Enemy Intelligence (Ctd.)

Ersion — One large M/V arrived since 9/7 and about 12 barges. (P.R.U.I. 1600/14). Quayside activity and about 25 M/V's mainly in New Inner Harbour. Vessels appear laden. (P.R.U.I. 1830/14). Photographs disclose 40 ships in New Inner Harbour (H.Q.C.C. 1845/15)

One German Trawler at 2255/14 at 52°3' N., 4°5' E., A/C report. (Chatham A.C.H.Q.0250/15)

Shipping

Following are arrangements made for neutral ships wishing to enter or leave the Baltic. (Hd. of M. 1134/14 to N.C.S.O. Kirkwall)

Action by a convoy if attacked by U-Boat. (V.C.N.S. 2004/14 to C. in C's.)

Miscellaneous

COLBERT — To be manned by French complement under French administration as Depot ship at Portsmouth for the French Naval Force (M.O.13490/40)

Weather Report

Area.	Wind.	Visibility.	Outlook.
North Sea	Light variable N.E.fresh to strong in North	Moderate to good.	Similar in South. Fresh to strong N.E to N.winds in Northern half.
Channel	S.W. to W. moderate to fresh.	Moderate to good.	Similar.
Western Approaches.	W. to N.W. moderate to fresh.	Good.	Similar.
No reports received, probable weather:-			
Horns Reef	N.W. moderate.	Moderate to good.	Wind backing to S.W or S.
S.W. Norway	N.E. to N. moderate to fresh.	Moderate.	Wind veering to E.
Dutch Coast	Light variable.	Good, local haze.	Southerly wind. Moderate.

War Diary. 21.4.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Continued)

Enemy aircraft mining in Downs (contd)

of mines were reported (8 in an area E. of Ramsgate and 7 in an area off Deal). In addition 6 were exploded in the Deal area. A channel round these areas is to be swept in order that traffic may be released (I.C.0428/40).
4 mines were exploded off Coquet Island and one magnetic mine in Liverpool Bay. (D.C.N.S.231.)

On completion of present duties IVANHOE, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE to proceed Immingham to embark mines. (C.in-C. H.F. 1512/21).

Operation 2 M.A. (Minelaying off coast Norway?) Re (D.C.N.S. 2320/22)

Shipping

Norwegian Ships. Instructions superseding my 1416/18 (D.T.D.1835/21).

Convoys. Situation at 2000/21 (C.in.C. W.A. 1304/21)

Your convoy is to anchor in Dungeness Roads and await orders. (V.A.Dover 0004/21 to Whitehall)
Anchor convoy in vicinity position Y. Degaussing ships to proceed into Thames, remainder await instructions. (C.in.C.Nore 0240/21 to Woolston)

F.N.51 Cancelled (C.in.C. Rosyth 1216/21).

ENEMY INTELLIGENCE.

Aircraft report. Aircraft report, 2 troop transports and 7 destroyers, 58° N, 10" E. at 6500 steering N. (D.C.0310/21).

Admiral Neilson reports 1 minelayer, 3 destroyers, 5 M.T.B's, 2 submarines in Hardanger Fiord 20/4. 200 men landed Uskedal 59° 50' N. 6° E. Suspected mines laid entrance to Fiord. (N.A. Norway 0841/21).

3 enemy war motor boats 040° in position LKND 2505 (A/C 224 Sqdrn. 1500/21) 1 ditto in WPND 2220 (A/C 224, 1515/21). 1 Norwegian Merchant Ship flying German flag, escorted

by.....

War Diary

14.7.40
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

Lifeboat — One life-boat which later sank, with one apparently dead man on board at 0739/14 in 52°28' N., 3°10' E. A/C Report. (C. in C. Nore 1122/14 to H.Q.C.C.).

FITZROY / **SEAMIST** — In collission. Both damaged and both being taken in hand. (F.O. Humber 1603/14 to Adty.)

ESCAPADE — Repairs to Dynamos should be completed 15/7. (S.O. Force H. 1401/14 to Adty.)

VELOX — Out of action till 18/7 (S.O. Force H.1401/14)

WISHART — Out of action till 24/7 (S.O. Force H.1401/14)

JANNA — Norwegian, 2197 tons. Sunk in Western approaches in convoy. (D.C.N.S. 315)

MALLARD — British. One empty life-boat recovered off St. Leonards by Hastings life-boat. No report of vessel's loss (V.A. Dover 0945/14 to Adty.)

TIRRANNA — Norwegian. Your 0244/13. Adty. has no information as to this ship. (D.T.D. 1806/14 to D.N.I. Melbourne.)

War Diary. 14.7.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French ships at Casablanca. My 1224/10. British Master who left Casablanca 12/7 reports work being continued JEAN BART. Other warships in harbour as follows: one cruiser TOURVILLE Class, two small cruisers, five large destroyers CYCLONE class, one of which painted red lead apparently new, four escort ships including DRAGUEUR KLAN and LA SURPRISE, two large submarines Number 61 and 91, three categories of submarines, submarine EURYDICE Class, submarine parent ship JULES VERNE, 12 armed trawlers. Also three heavily armed Fleet Oilers and very large number Cargo and passenger ships including MASRILA CHANTILLY and SUDOCHINE. Cargo ship SAN-JOSE is being fitted with gun platform on forecastle. Lorries were observed transporting torpedoes to some warships in harbour. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1320/14).

Possible Raider. Possibility of disguised raiders operating in North Atlantic. On 4/7, in approx. position 57°N., 30°W., SUSSEX intercepted a raider message which from the strength of the message was from a vessel not less than 300 miles from her. A disguised raider was possibly off the West Coast of Ireland on 11/7. German High Command communique of 13/7 claims that naval forces have operated successfully in overseas waters, capturing and bringing into port several valuable prizes. These 3 reports in conjunction indicate possibility of disguised raiders in North Atlantic (A.C.N.S.(H), "A" message, North Atlantic, repeated C.in C's. H.F., A.W.I. etc. 1307/14, D.D.O.D.(H),1600/14).

Canary Islands. Spanish CASTILLO COCA, 1739 tons, reported to have left Seville for Canary Islands with 7 or 8 tanks and 5 lorries, escorted by armed trawler. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1102/15).

South Atlantic.

Gambia. Situation, and possible attack on Gambia. Re-evacuation of French deserters to a safer spot using SLASK. Report on good authority about 20 military planes due to arrive Dakar to-day, 13/7. I propose sending French N.C.Os. plus any further French deserters to Freetown by first ship. (Officer Administering Gov. of Gambia, to S. of S. for Col., no. T.O.C., recd., 0353/14).

War Diary. 14.7.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (Cont.)

Cameroons. Situation less satisfactory. (G.O.C. West Africa 2341/14).

ROZEWIE. Polish motorship, 766 tons, arrived Pernambuco, having succeeded in escaping from Dakar during night of July 5. (N.C.S.O. Pernambuco 1116/14).

Mediterranean.

Operations

French Fleet. Hopes Admty. will not make any alteration in agreement come to with Admiral Godfroy re. ships at Alexandria. (C. in C. Med. 1241/14).

Force H. Re. training to be carried out east of Gibraltar. 8 destroyers available 15/7. (S.O. Force H. 1401/14. Area is believed clear of U-Boats. (D.D.I.C. 2214/14 to S.O. Force H.)

RORQUAL. To leave patrol forthwith and proceed to Malta to embark mines. On completion of lay return to Malta and embark mines and proceed to Alexandria. (Capt. (S)I 1405/14).

PHOENIX. To leave patrol for Alexandria via Malta. (Capt. (S) 1407/14).

OSIRIS. To leave patrol 18/7 for Alexandria. (Capt. (S)I 1411/14).

Air.

Hurricanes. Re. proposal to deliver by flying off from carrier. (Adty. 0231/14, HQ. R.A.F. ME. 1038/14, HQ. Malta 2045/14, Admty., 2105/14 to Force H).

Attacks on Fleet. WARSPITE and 7th C.S. bombed intermittently during 11/7 up to about 230 miles from Sicily. 1st B.S. and EAGLE bombed heavily eight times during this day.

All Force bombed continuously between Crete and Cyrenaica by aircraft from both Libya and Dodecanese. Heavy attacks on battleships and EAGLE. Fast convoy not molested throughout its passage.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Cont.)

Air.

Attacks on Fleet (Cont.)

Two killed in LIVERPOOL and one in VAMPIRE. No other casualties or important damage reported. Considering the scale and accuracy of the attack we must be accounted extremely fortunate.

Two Gladiators taken from fleet air arm reserve and stowed in H.M.S. EAGLE's flight deck shot down four or five Italian bombers during this period, which shows what could be done if an adequate number of fighters accompanied the fleet.

Remarks on the enemy air bombing follow.

(C. in C. Med. 1503/14).

Remarks on enemy air attacks.

C. in C. Med. 1619/14. See Summary in Situation Report.

Shipping.

Supplies via Cape.

In view of report of recent operations in Central Mediterranean, appears unlikely that convoys will be able to pass through via the Straits. Additional stores for Malta will therefore have to be routed via the Cape, and early information is accordingly necessary of anticipated requirements. Hoped to make special arrangements for flying additional 12 Hurricanes to Malta from ARGUS. (1st S.L. to V.A. Malta 0231/14).

STEAVA ROMANA. OLTENIA. Re employment. (D.of S.T. 1900/14 to R.A. Alexandria.)

East Indies.

GALILEO GALILEI. (Italian U-Boat captured 18/6) appointment of navigating party to take her to Alexandria. (S.N.O. Rgd.Sea 1659/14).

War Diary. 14.7.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

French Attitude. Possible when situation is clearer General Catroux may invite me to meet him again at Saigon for discussion. Should this occur would telegraph line which I propose to take. (C. in C. China to Admty. 0455 Z/14).

SHENGKING incident. (Ship which did not stop when called upon by Japanese). N.L.O. Shanghai's report of incident, (N.L.O. Shanghai 0532 Z/14).

America and West Indies.

FIJI. ILLUSTRIOUS. FIJI essential 5 days at Bermuda for defects etc. Intend to retain her until 20/7. ILLUSTRIOUS ready 16/7. Should she be sailed independetly or wait FIJI ?
(C. in C. A.W.I. 0941/14).

ORANGELEAF. Oiler with full cargo Adty. bunker fuel to be sailed for Gib.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 0951/14 to S.N.O. Trinidad).

Convoy TC 6. Ocean escort REVENGE. Time of departure from Halifax, route etc. (D.O.D.(F) 1830/14).
Cancel N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1216/13; all Canadian troops now preparing to embark will proceed to U.K. Date of sailing of TC 6 (two portions) EMERALD proposed as escort for second portion.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1223/14).

War Diary. 14.7.--
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/ms. Reported.

0806 58°55'N., 2°25'E., 106° Fair Island 130', position approximate. (I.C. 0511/40).

Estimated Dispositions. 1 in Western Approaches.
1 more either in Western Approaches, or, if homeward bound, possibly now west of Hebrides.
(D.D.I.C. 1411/14).

S/ms. Attacked.

0524 By SABRE, 120° Beachy Head 14'. No positive result. SHIKARI 20 minutes later abandoned contact as non-sub.(fish).
(A.S.W.D. 312).

War Diary. 14.7.40.
Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

JANTJE FRITZEN. 6582 G.T., ordered on 13/7 to proceed to Bremen. (I.C. 0511/40).

BIRGIT. 325 G.T., left Gothenburg 12/7 for Lake Vanern, near Nossekoping. 58°30'N. 17°E.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CAPO ARMA. 3195 G.T., Shell Company of Turkey taking steps to arrest this ship, now at Galatz. (.I.C. 0511/40).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MASRILA)
CHANTILLY) At Casablanca 12/7.
SUDOCHINE)

SAN JOSE. Being fitted at Casablanca with gun platform on fo'c'sle.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 1320/14).

War Diary

15.7.40
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Except for coastal convoys merchant shipping is not to be routed through the Western Approaches and English Channel. The inconvenience of abandoning Southampton as a port for movements of Army personnel and stores must be accepted. (A.C.N.S.(T). 0040/15 to C.in C's.)

In order that arrangements may be made to provide the maximum possible air protection for valuable troop and other special convoys it is requested that all signals relative to their routeing, movements, time of arrival etc. be repeated to Air Ministry, H.Q. Coastal Command and H.Q. Fighter Command. (D.O.D.(H) 1401/15 to C.in C.W.A.)

Dartmouth — A Naval Control Service is being established at Dartmouth and will start to work at 0001/16 (D.T.D. 1533/15)

Weather

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
(Eastern) North Sea	Easterly or variable, fresh in North, light elsewhere.	Moderate or poor, good in South.	Similar.
Channel	Easterly light.	Good.	Similar.
W.Approaches	Northerly light.	Moderate or good.	Wind backing.
Horns Reef	W. light or moderate.	Moderate or good.	Similar.
Dutch Coast	S.W. light.	Moderate or good.	Wind backing.
S.W. Norway	Easterly, moderate or fresh.	Moderate or good.	Similar.

War Diary

15.7.40
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

My 1130/11/7. Brown Ridge Sweep is to be known in future as Patrol T. (C. in C.Nore 1446/15)

Unknown ship mined 5' off Lynmouth (D.C.N.S.316)

5 Magnetic Mines exploded in Thames Estuary (D.C.N.S.316)

Liverpool is closed owing to suspected minelaying by A/C. (D.C.N.S.316)

Some areas of the British Channel are closed (D.C.N.S.316)

The Kyles of Bute are closed. (D.C.N.S.316)

Enemy Intelligence

Suspicious vessels possibly transports reported in approximate position 48°42' N., 7°25' W. at 0750/15 course 350 speed unknown.

Air searches are being carried out (a) between 320 degs. and 020 degs. from above position. (b) 240° from Scillies to longitude 11° west.

VANSITTART from 46°12' N., 11° W. at 1200/15 is proceeding towards Fastnet at 20 knots.

NEWCASTLE is to take destroyers addressed under her orders and proceed between Scillies and Lands End and thence to the north westward.
(C.in C.W.A.1143/15 to NEWCASTLE, MACKAY, BROKE, HESPERUS, WOLVERINE, WITHERINGTON, RESTIGOUCHE)

My 1117/15. Suspicious vessels reported at 0750/15 in 48°42' N., 7°25' W. course 350°. Two Sunderland Aircraft are searching. NEWCASTLE and six Destroyers proceed 1330 to N.W. of Scilly Islands. (C.in C.W.A.1241/15 to VANSITTART)

As Air searches have failed to find any suspicious vessels, inference is that German intercept believed to refer to transports actually referred to British or Neutral Merchant ships. NEWCASTLE and Destroyers less BROKE and MACKAY have been recalled. (C.in C.W.A. 1852/15 to Adty.)

25 small Fishing-Vessels in channel between Andorja and Rolla. One M/V 4500 tons approaching Narvik at 0430/15. (Donibristle 1135/15)

2 Destroyers 52°11' N., 2°46' E. course 230° slow speed. A/C report (Chatham 1300/15)

Brest — 3 large Vessels at W. end of Harbour, and small M/B under way outside Boom heading up harbour. (P.R.U.I.St.Eval 1310/15)

HOME COMMANDS Ctd.)

E-Boats

2 Vessels off Guernsey, believed E-Boats, at 0100/15. (I.C.0512/15)

Air R/C reports 3 E-Boats in Brest. (A.C.W.A. 2356/15 to NEWCASTLE)

Air

Enemy Air Activity

Dover — 3 Bombs dropped in harbour at 0020/15. No damage to ships but two casualties in trawler BIRCH. Two bombs dropped ashore, one Military killed and four wounded. Incendiary bombs inland. (V.A. Dover 0219/15 to Adty.)

Convoy Pilot — Enemy A/C shadowing convoy. (STORK 1136/15) Convoy being bombed at 330°52°2°E. 9' (STORK 1410/15) Enemy A/C bombing my position 52°2' N., 1°49' E. (VALOROUS 1412/15) Ten A/C bombing (STORK 1412/15) Fighters have left for Convoy Pilot (Nore W/T 1425/15)

HEWORTH on fire and ZBARAZ out of control at 52°5' N., 1°51' E. Request Tugs. (VALOROUS 1452/15 to C.in C. Nore) Crew of Polish ZBARAZ in Trawler VIDONIA who has Pole in tow. Am standing by with VENOMOUS (WIVERN 1643/15 to C.in C.Nore).

ST. OLAVE and Trawler STELLA CARINA standing by HEWORTH at 51°59' N., 1°39' E. VIDONIA with ZBARAZ in tow proceeding to Harwich. (WIVERN 1854/15 to C.in C.Nore)

CITY OF LIMERICK — 1359 tons. Bombed in 48°49' N., 7°12' W. Detach BROKE and MACKAY to her. (C.in C.W.A.1701/15 to NEWCASTLE) Ship abandoned (A.C.H.Q.Plymouth 1733/15) Have you sighted CITY OF LIMERICK or her boats? (C.in C.W.A.2301/15 to MACKAY)

At 1745/15 A/C reports bombed ship sinking in 48°50' N., 6°52' W. at 1500/15. (A.C.H.Q.Plymouth 1828/15)

Pembroke Dock — 3 bombs dropped at 1450/15 on railway tunnel outside Pembroke. No naval damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1703/15 to Adty.)

ALPHA — Portuguese, 853 tons, bombed and abandoned in 48°51' N., 6°43' W., was afloat and salvable at 2115/15. (D.S.315)

Barry — 4 bombs dropped in No.1 Dock at 1008/15. Slight damage, no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1600/15 to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary

15.7.40
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Home Fleet — My 2323/14. As D/F bearings now place enemy ship referred to near Bergen, cancel my 2323/14 except for ships at Scapa, Rosyth, and Humber. (1st. S.L. 0209/15 to C. in C's.)

Revert to usual notice for steam. (C.in C.H.F. 0723/15)

Cancel my 2351/14. Submarines may be at two hours notice. (V.A.S.0734/15)

Submarines are to revert to normal notice. (V.A.S.1212/15)

NORFOLK — To come to one hours notice for sea forthwith. (D.C.1335/15 to C.in C.H.F.) Cancel my 1335/15. Revert to former notice. (D.C.1820/15 to NORFOLK)

Crash Boats — Request you sail five Crash Boats to Hamble 16th July as convenient (D.O.D.H.1511/15 to C.in C. Portsmouth) Further 24 hours wanted for repairs and C.O. prefers sail all together. Request instructions. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2130/15 to Adty.)

Six small Motor Auxiliary Patrol Yachts have sailed to their stations at S. end of Menai Strait. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1745/15 to Adty.)

Submarines — Positions of S/M's and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/16 July Area A. Clyde. STATLANDET TRUANT QSMF 4530.

WILK JZLZ 3500 SPEARFISH H one leaving p.m. for Blyth H.31 YZSC 2454 waiting to relieve SPEARFISH H 34 vicinity of L.S.T.A. 4017 waiting to relieve H.44. H.44 L.S.S.C.1539 proceeding on surface to Harwich. TETRARCH X.Z.T.A. SUNFISH P.C.T.A. 1000 both proceeding on the surface to Rosyth. L23 leaves Dundee P.M. escorted by Netherlands T.B.28. to Scapa. (V.A.S.1807/15) (D.C.2022/15)

Position of submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 16th July area B. TIGRIS escorted by NORTHERN SPRAY approximately N.L.A.V. 0040 proceeding West of Scilly Isles to K.Q.Q.G.4130. (V.A.S.1816/15)

Operations

Operation AMBASSADOR — One Crash Boat unaccounted for after withdrawal. (SALADIN 0615/15 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Iceland — LISSA, escorted by NORTHERN PRIDE and MAN O WAR are proceeding to Reykjavik. (C. in C.Rosyth 2312/15 to ARGUS)

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

ASTURIAS — To escort Convoy SL 40 and proceed Greenock, sailing for Freetown 6/8. (C. in C., S.A., 1305/15).

DUNVEGAN CASTLE — To leave Greenock so as to arrive outer end of Freetown searched channel 8/8 at 0800 zone + 1. C. in C., S.A., 1321/15).

Gold Coast — Re ships with Senegalese troops proceeding to Gold Coast, rates of pay French native troops under De Gaulle, and British contingent and ammunition for Freetown. (W.O., to G.O.C., West Africa, 2305/15).

Mediterranean - Policy

Policy of H.M. Govt. in Mediterranean. Function of the Naval forces. Asking for suggestions (1st S.L. 0227/15, 1045/15 to C. in C., Med.) See Mediterranean Volume. Amendments to 0227/15 (1st S.L., 2300/16).

Italian Shipping — Italian shipping within 30 miles of Libyan Coast may be sunk at sight. (C. in C., Med., 1145/15).

Mediterranean - Organisation

Cruiser Sqdn. — Propose to merge 3rd and 7th Cruiser Sqdns. R.A. Renouf to be appointed 2nd in command 7th Cruiser Sqdn., and hoist his flag in GLOUCESTER. (C. in C., Med., 1135/15).

LL Sweepers — Adty. 1229/8. Report of progress with LL minesweepers. No suitable craft excepting trawlers and drifters already in service found so far. (R.A., Alexandria, 1511/15).

Shipping Routes — Re W.O. and Air Min. plans to convey supplies to Middle East on routes (a) Mombasa - Cairo, (b) Basra - Haifa. While agreeing that alternative routes are naturally desirable, presume it is appreciated that Red Sea route remains the normal channel of supply and that there is every reason to suppose it will continue to be available. (C. in C., Med., to Adty., 1531/15).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

RORQUAL — Time of arrival at Malta to embark mines. (V.A. Malta, 1801/15).

Mediterranean - Air

Haifa raided — Raid by 10 Italian planes on Iraq Petroleum Company Oil tanks 0915 C today Monday. 3 tanks burning 3 damaged. 27,800 tons crude oil in danger of being lost. No refined oil lost. No fatal casualties. Some minor injuries to I.P.C. personnel. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, ~~1300~~ 1300C/15).

Alexandria Riad — Raid 1250, single aircraft dropped 2 bombs outside harbour. (R.A.I.C., Alexandria, 1330/15).

Hurricanes, delivery to Malta — Re proposal to deliver by flying off carrier. Presume Air Ministry satisfied Hurricanes can take off from ARGUS. Opinion here is such a course is impracticable. Do you propose to take any further action in this matter? (H.Q., Med., to H.Q., R.A.F., Middle East, 0950/15).

Whole project has been most carefully examined in light of naval situation and our previous experiences with Hurricanes taken off from carriers by pilots without previous carrier training, and it has been decided that the 12 Hurricanes are to be flown into Malta. Aircraft pilots, key personnel and stores will be embarked in ARGUS in U.K. about 20th and on arrival Gibraltar key personnel and stores will be transhipped to 2 submarines for onward passage to Malta. For flight to Malta Hurricanes will be escorted by 2 F.A.A. Skuas which are remaining. (Air Min., 1603/15 to H.Q. Malta and M.E.)

Swordfish for Raiding — Ref. 1633/9. All 3 Service ministries are agreed that method of employment of these aircraft is to be left to discretion of local commanders (War Off. to Govr., Malta, 1720/15).

East Indies

French Ships — N.O.I.C. Calcutta's 0702/13. Transfer to Panamanian flag apparently not finally effected. Owner.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

Owner appears willing to transfer both ships to British flag either in his own name or in that of Wallem and Co., Hong Kong. F.O.C.R.I.N. requested to report further when situation is clarified. (C. in C., E.I., 1006Z/15).

CARAIBE — Gratitude from French C. in C. to 1st Sea Lord. CARAIBE will be recalled to Indo China and will remain in Far East until end of war. Assurance of "respectful and faithful attachment". (Liaison Officer, Saigon, 0930Z/15).

America and West Indies

SOBIESKI — Delayed in Quebec until 18/7 or 19/7. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1722/15).

T.C.6 — REVENGE and EMERALD to escort. (D.O.D.(F) 1840/15).

Pacific Coast Patrol — Adty. 1024/10. As only minor warships on Pacific Coast of North America, suggest PRINCE ROBERT should operate in this area, north of 48° and east of 135° E., to protect British and Allied shipping from enemy raider operations and deal with any enemy merchant ship raiders attempting to lay mines. Grateful for your opinion (C.N.S., Ottawa, to C. in C., A.W.I. 1616/15).

Australia

French Trade — Your 0531/12. British, Allied and normal French ships are being permitted to trade between Australia and French Pacific possessions, whose attitude so far has been friendly. No objection to resumption of inter-station trade and arrangements on Australian Station are being made accordingly. (A.C.N.B., 1330Z/15 to C. in C., China).

War Diary

15.7.40.
Monday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CAPO ARMA — Laid up at Galatz. Shell company of Turkey is taking steps to arrest her. (D.S. 314).

REMO — 9780 tons, seized at Fremantle, Australia, on outbreak of war with Italy, commissioned for passage only as Royal Australian Fleet auxiliary 13/7 and sailed for Melbourne 14/7.
(A.C.N.B. 12062/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.7.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Red Sea Situation.

My 1958/7. Situation Djibuti may quickly become unsatisfactory. French General of Division due Djibuti frontier to-day to enforce Armistice terms. R.A.F. attempting to intercept. Le Gentilhomme fears he may be overruled and he may accept Middle East offer of Black Watch in his support.
S.N.O., Red Sea Force has COLOMBO, CERES, and CHANTALA ready to transport troops for landing at dawn 14/7 if required. Guarantee of passivity of coast defence batteries would be obtained if possible.
(C.in C. East Indies, to Adty., 1012/13).

14.7.1940.
Sunday.

America and West Indies.

Honduras Situation.

Your Tel. No. 112. This confirmation of reports from other sources is most alarming because defence force is quite inadequate for resistance to organised raiding by even less than 100 men, and has not been armed and equipped. Our defence force consists of 200 men, ill-armed unequipped, and untrained, and would be overpowered in few hours. Pending measures proposed immediately following telegram, request urgently that you should approach Admiralty with a view to stationing a destroyer or other ship at Belize. Seizure of place named would be irretrievable blow to British prestige in South America and the security of the West Indies. (Governor, British Honduras, to S.of S. for Colonies, no T.O.O. recd. 0014/14).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.7.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Assume Force H. will be operating during this time, force left available cannot be more than 2 destroyers and 3 A/S trawlers. This force required to maintain Straits patrol and provide local escort for Convoy H.G.40 on 3/8. Most undesirable to delay slow evacuation ships till 3/8.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1320/22).

25.7.1940.
Thursday.

East Indies.

759. Secret and Personal Reference NIBLICK Operations if in Persian Gulf. Is it now envisaged that scale of opposition anticipated will justify inclusion of an A.A. Ship in Naval Supporting force in view of scarcity of these ships on Station and their important commitments in Red Sea and Aden areas. It is highly improbable that one can be spared from these areas unless considered absolutely essential.
(C.in C. E.I. 0724/25 to G.O.C.in C. M.E.)

26.7.1940.
Friday.

East Indies.

0/14577. Your 0724/25. NIBLICK force from India has no anti-aircraft units. On the other hand Red Sea and Aden areas may be more important. Consider decision should be taken when time comes. Admiralty please inform WAR Office.
(M.E. T.H.I. 1657/26 to C.in C., E.I.)

War Diary

25.7.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

759. Secret and Personal Reference MIMLICK Operations if in Persian Gulf. Is it now envisaged that scale of opposition anticipated will justify inclusion of an A.A. Ship in Naval Supporting force in view of scarcity of these ships on Station and their important commitments in Red Sea and Aden areas. It is highly improbable that one cane be spared from these areas unless considered absolutely essential. (C. in C., E.I. 0724/25 to G.O.C. in C., M.E.)

26.7.1940.
Friday

East Indies

0/14577. Your 0724/25. MIMLICK force from India has no anti-aircraft units. On the other hand Red Sea and Aden areas may be more important. Consider decision should be taken when time comes. Admiralty please inform War Office. (M.E. T.H.I. 1657/26 to C. in C., E.I.)

13.7.1940.
Saturday.

East Indies

Red Sea Situation

My 1958/7. Situation Djibuti may quickly become unsatisfactory. French General of Division duo Djibuti frontier to-day to enforce Armistice terms. R.A.F. attempting to intercept. Le Gentilhomme fears he may be overruled and he may accept Middle East offer of~~fer~~ Black Watch in his support. S.N.O., Red Sea Force has COLOMBO, CERES and CHANTALA ready to transport troops for landing at dawn 14/7 if required. Guarantee of passivity of coast defence batteries would be obtained if possible. (C. in C., East Indies, to Admty., 1012/13)

28.7.1940.
Saturday.

East Indies

Plans to Capture Kismayu

My 1816/5 understand operation postponed to January-February 1941. (C. in C., E.I. 1402/28)

MOST SECRET.

28.7.1940.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Plans to Capture Kismayu.

My 1816/5 understand operation postponed to January-February 1941.
(C.in C. E.I. 1402/28).

Targets for Attack.

Have consulted Air Hq. Bombardment of Macaaca practicable but air base already very much damaged and all bulk of stocks have been removed. Bombardment to be warranted. Targets. (details).
(S.N.O. Red Rea, 1403/28).

29.7.1940.
Monday.

East Indies.

Operations ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Your 1014/29. See my 2008/28 decision on para. 3 awaits photographs. At present target hardly appears to justify use of Battleship. See my 1246/29 with reference to Air co-operation from Kenya for possible bombardment leaving harbour- Kismayu.
(C.in C. E.I., 1244Z/29 to Adty).

1. If sea bombardment of Kismayu Island were decided upon could any further protection to bombarding ship and air spotting be provided from Kenya Command.

2. Would such bombardment prejudice or assist future land operations at Kismayu or lead to retaliation on Mombasa by air attack. (C.in C. E.I. 1246Z/29 to O.A. C.in C. R.A.F., M.E., and G.O.C. M.E.)

Your 1623/28. If A/S escort to Aden is provided by Mediterranean Fleet, ship can be received in Red Sea at any time arriving Aden Fairway buoy two hours before high water. A/S escort from Aden in Gulf of Aden would be provided by Red Sea Force. Propose onward passage at 12 knots direct to Durban passing Comoro Island and Mozambique Channel in dark hours. Request C.in C. Med., will confirm ship would have sufficient endurance for diversion to Kismayu if operation taking place my 1246/29 is decided upon. Request also ship's present maximum speed through water.
(C.in C. E.I. 1924Z/29 to Adty).

War Diary

15.7.40.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

BELLEROCK — British, 1199 tons. Mined 5 miles off Lynmouth, and sunk. 7 survivors landed at Cardiff. (D.S.)

Submarines Reported

0329 — 51:20 N. 10:40 W., 267° Fastnet 44., position indefinite, A.1. (I.C., 0512/40).

2007 — RESTIGOUCHE and HESPERUS hunting contact in position 135° Lizard Light 12.5 miles. (NEWCASTLE, 2007/15). No contact obtained (RESTIGOUCHE, 2201/15).

- — 60:09 N., 04:51 E., about 20 m. S.W. from Bergen. Reported by H.M. Ship (D.S. 315).

Estimated dispositions:-

1 in about 51:20 N., 10:40 W. at 0329/15. If homeward bound may pass from 55° to 57° during daylight hours tomorrow, 16th.
Possibly 1 between N. Rona and Shetlands homeward bound. (I.C., 0512/40).

Submarines Attacked

? time — By TETRARCH, 60:09 N., 4:51 E. Route being followed with view to intercepting enemy submarine. (TETRARCH, 2331/15).

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported

Aircraft reconnaissance reported 4 submarines in Tobruk Harbour, Libya, 15/7. (D.S. 315).

War Diary

15.7.40.
Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

SALMON	Due Rosyth pm/14th. If no news received by 0900/16 she must be presumed lost. (V.A.S. 1213/15 to Adty.)
WAYNEGATE	Grounded 1230/15 half mile S. of Swilkie Point, Stroma Island. (WAYNGATE. Recd. 1315/15). Refloated. (A.C.O.S. Recd. 1939/15). Anchored in Sinclair Bay. (SALVAGE KING 2105/15 to A.C. Scapa).
KOLLBJORG	Norwegian, 8259 tons, reported overdue from Aruba has arrived safely at Santos today. (D.S.315).
CORABELLA	British, 5682 tons, due at Demerara on 8th. July is overdue. (D.S.315).
THYRA	Danish, 1738 tons, overdue at Las Palmas since 9th July. (D.S. 315).

War Diary. 16.7.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

French Ships. It is proposed to make the following signal to all the necessary authorities:-

"It is appreciated that recognition from the Air between French Ships under the control of the French Government and those commissioned for service in the R.N. is exceedingly difficult if not impossible. Bombing action should therefore not be taken against any French men of war at sea unless given as a specific target by the competent Naval authority."

(D.C.D.(H) 1148/16 to Air Ministry).

Stavanger Concentration. Intelligence reports suggest that a concentration of troops, aircraft and shipping may be taking place in the Stavanger area. A really heavy bombing attack utilising such darkness as exists is recommended. This would seem to be a chance of forestalling a German offensive which is a course of action that seldom comes our way.
(C. in C. H.F. 1714/16 to Adty.)

Lorient. In view of FORM WHITE STE/W3/16/7 on Lorient, I regard it as important that this port should be attacked as soon as possible, observing that no demolitions were carried out at the time of the evacuation.
(C. in C. W.A. 2052/16 to Adty).

French Vessels Requisitioned. The Government has decided that, starting Wednesday morning, 17th July, French Merchant Vessels in United Kingdom ports are to be requisitioned and placed under the British Flag. The crews will be given the alternative of serving the common cause, in which case they will be paid British rates of pay and compensation etc. or of repatriation to France. If they agree to serve and are passed by the Security Police, they will remain in their ships for the present; if they refuse they will be interned pending repatriation. In due course it is intended to form composite French crews to serve in French ships under the British flag probably also flying the French Flag as a house flag. Those interned will be repatriated in exchange for British Merchant Seamen if the French do not allow our crews to return freely. The ships will be returned to France at the end of the war, and compensation will then be paid to owners.

It is generally intended that local French Shipping in distant waters should continue to trade if it is desirable in Allied interests and provided local Authorities are satisfied that its voyage will be carried out, but all Fast Merchant Vessels capable of being used as Armed Merchant Cruisers should be requisitioned. (D.T.D. 2319/16).

War Diary. 16.7.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Force C. Raise steam with despatch.
(C. in C. H.F. 0431/16 to SOUTHAMPTON, GLASGOW, NORFOLK, SUSSEX, SHROPSHIRE).

Ships addressed are raising steam with despatch and are to form Force C. (C.in C. H.F. 0541/16 to SOUTHAMPTON, COSSACK, SIKH, ZULU, MAORI, COVENTRY, GLASGOW, INGLEFIELD, IMOGEN, SUSSEX, SHROPSHIRE, FURY, FORTUNE).

Revert to 4 hours notice for steam.
(C. in C. H.F. 0534/16 to NORFOLK).

My 0541. Delete COVENTRY.
(C. in C. H.F. 0710/16 to R.A.18).

Take Force C. under your orders and proceed when weather permits. Destroyers are ready.
(C. in C. H.F. 0755/16 to R.A.18).

Crash Boats. Your 2130/15. Approved to sail all boats together. (D.O.D.(H) 1001/16 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth). All Crash Boats ready to sail a.m./17. Expected time of arrival 1700.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1306/16 to Adty.)

Notice for Steam. My 0837/16. One cruiser at Sheerness and half total available destroyers at each port are now to revert to usual notice for steam.
(C. in C. Nore 1304/16 to F.O.I.C. Humber, Harwich, Yarmouth, Sheerness, C.S.18, C.S.2, D.5).

Disposition of French Ships. My 1052/16 ships will be employed as follows :-

LE TRIOMPHANT	Attached to R.A.D.Home Fleet
LEOPARD	Portsmouth local Flotilla
All Torpedo Boats.	Portsmouth anti-E Boat Flotilla
ARRAS, CHEVREUIL, EPINAL, LA CAPRICIEUSE, LA MALOUINE	Auxiliary Patrol, Portsmouth.
LEOVILLE, TEMERAIRE II	Auxiliary Patrol, Western Approaches.

All British manned submarine chasers, under C.in C. Western Approaches COURBET and all French manned ships, under C. in C. Nore PARIS and all Polish manned ships, under C. in C. Rosyth. All Dutch manned ships, under C. in C. Western Approaches based on Holyhead. COURBET and PARIS to be berthed in Thames Estuary and Tyne respectively as guard ships. Information regarding A/S vessels will be promulgated later.
(V.C.N.S. 1508/16 to C. in Cs.)

War Diary

16.7.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

Submarines

Position of submarines and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600 17th July. Area A CLYDE Statlandet TRUANT QSMF 4530. WILK JZLZ 3500 TETRARCH PCSC 2020 proceeding submerged to Rosyth. SPEARFISH NLSC 0020 proceeding submerged to Blyth, H31 and H34 in H. one and 2. TRIDENT leaves Rosyth p.m. north east.
(V.A.S. 1716/16).

Operations

If enemy force is seen, report and shadow, but not attack. (No.18 Rec. Group H.Q. 0935/16 to Aircraft).

Operation "P.G."

An offensive reconnaissance will be carried out by M.T.B's in the Estuary of the West Scheldt during dark hours as soon as opportunity offers, with object of destroying enemy craft and creating a diversion.

2. Details of the operation are to be organised by Senior Officer M.T.B's.

3. Unless really good targets are seen or have been previously located boats are not to go up river beyond Flushing. They are to be well clear of coast by first light.

4. All vessels East of 2° 30' E. and south of 51° 40' N. may be attacked on sight without challenge. M.T.B's are to keep south of 51:40 N. when east of 2:30 E.

5. No air protection will be provided unless situation indicates probability of retaliatory action by enemy aircraft.

6. The latest operational intelligence for the area has been asked for and will be signalled as soon as received.

7. Report numbers of M.T.B's detailed and proposed date and times of leaving and returning to base.
(C. in C., Nore 1530/16 to BEEHIVE)

War Diary

16.7.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

DANEMAN — Am being attacked by light forces 063° Beachy Head 22 miles (DANEMAN 0125/16). Enemy has retired behind smoke screen and broken off engagement (DANEMAN 0145/16).

Air

British Air Activity

Reconn. — At least twice every 24 hours either under cloud cover or by moonlight recces are to be made along the French coast from Cherbourg to Le Havre with particular attention to Trouville and the mouth of the Seine. Also from Dieppe to Dunkirk with particular attention to all Harbours in between. (H.Q.C.C. 1210/16 to Adty.)

Anti-Invasion Air Patrols — Complete list of Air Patrols now in force. (H.Q.C.C. 1515/16 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

CITY OF LIMERICK — On fire and fore-part gutted. In view probable renewed air attack do not propose attempt salvage unless special reasons for it (C. in C., W.A. 0031/16 to Adty.) Adty. know of no special reason for attempting salvage. (D.T.D. 0253/16 to C. in C., W.A.)

ALPHA — Portuguese, 850 tons. Damaged and abandoned at 48:5 N. 6:43 W. (C. in C., W.A. 0031/16).

Force C — Am being shadowed by 2 Enemy aircraft at 58:4 N. 0:6 W. My course 098° speed 25 knots. (R.A. 18th C.S. 1528/16). Am being shadowed by one aircraft at 58:2 N., 0:15 W. (R.A. 18 C.S. 1610/16). Enemy is bombing 58:4 N. 0:8 W. (R.A. 18 C.S. 1632/16). One aircraft shadowing 58:7 N. 0:45 W. (R.A. 18 C.S. 1720/16).

Vessel being attacked 12' N.E. of St. Abb's Head. (Wick Radio. Recd. 1707/16).

HOME COMMANDS

Air (Contd.)

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Peterhead — At 1605/16. Enemy aircraft dropped 3 bombs inside Harbour of Refuge. No damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1641/16 to Adty.) One enemy aircraft shot down and 2 prisoners taken. (D.C.N.S. 317).

Fraserburgh — At 1602/16 two bombs dropped. One rating slightly wounded and damage to houses (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1641/16). Damage to small Naval Store and stores (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2054/16).

Mining

Sweeping of Convoy Routes — As QZF6 is still being used by RAML. there are insufficient sweepers to search convoy routes. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1247/16 to Adty.)

Kyles of Bute — At about 0230/16 a heavy explosion between Colintraive and Tignabruaich after aircraft had been seen by Yacht CARRAIG. Local traffic through Kyles of Bute stopped, and sweepers sent. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0435/16 to Adty.). Enemy Mine Type C. self exploded (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2245/17 to C. in C. Rosyth).

At 1134/16 one Floating Mine, colour Yellow, in 57:6 N., 5:58 E. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 1435/16 to Adty.)

Linney Head — At 1655/16 a Black object dropped by Motor Boat at 220° Linney Head 2½ miles. Aircraft to investigate. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1656/16 to Adty.)

Rattray Head — Owing to suspected Minelaying by aircraft, request inshore route between North Carr and Rattray Head be prohibited for shipping. (C. in C. Rosyth 1931/16 to Adty.)

Liverpool — Two red magnetic mines detonated by LL trawlers in Crosby Channels. Liverpool open tonight from 2000 to 2330 and Convoys being swept in and out. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2134/16 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Loch Ewe — Two more mines have been exploded by BURLINGTON in Loch Ewe, making six in six days. (D.C.N.S. 317)

Newhaven and Tyne-Blyth Inshore Channel are still closed. (D.C.N.S.317).

Enemy Intelligence

German aircraft active at 1655/16 in 57:0 N., 5:0 E. D/F report. (D.D.I.C. 1724/16).

Skerries 12th July — At 2200/12 EMPIRE INDUSTRY saw small craft off Skerries apparently being used for fuelling Submarines. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1841/16 to Adty.)

Jutland — 6 U-boats and 13 Mine-Sweepers at 56:30 N., 5:29 E. at 1845/16. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn. 1845/16). Minesweepers course 140, U-boats submerged course 220. Am being attacked by aircraft. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn. 1900/16).

Lorient / Port Louis — Photographs show great activity. Submarine supply ship, 4 warships possibly destroyers, one large and ten small M/Vs, and large number of lighters and trawlers in port. 3 Goods trains, apparently of petrol tank waggons, at docks. (PRU St. Eval 1920/16).

French Ports — Aircraft reconnaissance of Cherbourg, Trouville, Honfleur, and Havre from 1840 to 1935/16. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 2220/16).

Shipping.

Convoy WN1 — Sailing Telegram. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0900/16 to Adty.)

Convoy HX.58 — Sailing Telegram. (D.T.D. 1915/16).

Sighted large Convoy with 2 ships heavily on fire bearing 325:12 miles. My position 88:56 N., 10:18 W. (FORFAR 1158/16 to C. in C. Rosyth)
Unknown vessel appears to be on fire. My position 56:11 N., 9:21 W. Request instructions. (LETITIA 1615/16 to C. in C. Rosyth).
Proceed to Clyde (C. in C. Rosyth, 1708/16 to LETITIA).

War Diary

16.7.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoy SL.40 Sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1755/16).

MARISA THORDEN Finnish, 4536 tons. Petsamo to New York. Have intercepted at 60:55 N., 19:23 W. and transferred Mails and 18 Red Cross Nurses. Request instructions. (WOLFE 1305/16 to V.A.N.P.) Escort ship towards Clyde pending further orders (F.O.C.N.P. 1555/16 to WOLF). Send ship to Clyde under armed guard. (F.O.C.N.P. 1723/16 to WOLFE).

Convoy Rescue Ships Commodores of convoys to be informed that, unless absolutely necessary, small ships with cargoes of no great value should be employed as Rescue-Ships rather than valuable modern vessels. (D.T.D. 1637/16).

Convoy WN.2 Intend sailing at 0630/18. About 28 ships. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1601/16).

Miscellaneous

Identification Marks For use only in operations connected with invasion. (D.S.D. 1339/16. AZ. Message.)

French Ships Manning by British, French, and Polish crews. (V.C.N.S. 1052/16).

War Diary

16.7.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Weather.

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	Light variable easterly.	Poor to moderate extensive fog patches.	Wind Light to Mod. N.E. Vis. Poor - fog patches.
Channel	W. to N.W. light.	Good in West. Poor in East. Thick fog Straits of Dover.	Wind S.W. light to mod. Vis. Poor to mod. improving later.
Western Approaches	Light variable S.E. to S.W.	Moderate to good.	Wind veering to W.N.W Mod. Vis. Mod. becoming good.
Horns Reef	S.E. to E.moderate.	Good.	Wind S.Mod. Vis. Mod. to poor.
Dutch Coast	E. to S.E. light.	Mod. to poor fog patches.	Wind veering to S. light. Vis. Improving slowly later.
S.W. Coast Norway	N.E. light to Mod.	Good local fog or mist.	Wind Easterly light. Vis. Mod.

War Diary

16.7.40.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Home Commands

GLASGOW) IMOGEN)	Have been in collision with IMOGEN in position 100 plus 74 XZMA 29. (GLASGOW 2355/16).

North Atlantic

Destroyers. Admiralty 1913/13. Assumed the three G class, HOTSPUR and ENCOUNTER will form part of 13th Destroyer Flotilla on arrival at Gibraltar. Continued extra commitments make it necessary that 13th D.F. should be kept at full strength. (F.O.C.N.A., 1136/16). Confirmed. (D.O.D.(F), 2317/16).

French Warships. Admiral Ollive informed in accordance with Admiralty 1330/13 (no further action against French warships while they are lying in French Colonial or North African ports). He has now replied. "If I interpret text correctly British Admiralty's assurance is equivalent to declaration of a blockade of French warships in French Colonial and North African ports. I am so informing French Admiralty." Should any reply be made to this? (F.O.C.N.A.1238/16). No reply should be sent. (1st S.L. 2344/16).

Morocco, French
LE RHIN

Your 1823/15. Conditions in Morocco and attitude towards Musilier's orders. French officers and men follow Peri's opinion as their leader. Peri wishes to serve under British flag. Failing further oders French ship LE RHIN will sail for Devonport in convoy on 21/7. Ship has now hoisted Blue Ensign. (S.O.I. Gib., to D.N.I., 1752/16).

South Atlantic.

Convoy. W.S.1 arrived 0900/16 escorted by CUMBERLAND. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0952/16).

ASTURIAS Left for convoyduty and passage to U.K. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1547/16).

Air Striking Force. If it is approved for HERMES to proceed Simonstown for repairs, propose to land 7 of l her aircraft at Wellington aerodrome as an air striking force for defence of Freetown. Armed with bombs in first instance, but intended they should eventually be based at Hastings (vide my 1331/12) where they can also operate with torpedoes. Request early approval. (C. in C., S.A., to Admiralty., 2033/16).

Troop Movements. My 2039/5. War Office now wish troops to proceed Accra FABIAN and JOHN HOLT are at your disposal for this purpose but probably require supplies. (D.O.D.(F) to C.-in-C.S.A., 2316/16). Ships being routed to Takoradi. (C.-in-C.S.A., 1955/16).

WAR DIARY — FOREIGN STATIONS — 16.7.40 Tuesday

Mediterranean.

RORQUAL — Movements. (RORQUAL, 0115/16, 0915/16, 2210/16)

Commands — Your 1135/15. Alternatively if you prefer, Rear-Adm. Renouf could be appointed in command of 7th Cruiser Sqdn., and Vice-Adm. Tovey as V.A.C. Light Forces and 2nd in Command, Mediterranean Fleet. Light Forces would comprise all cruisers and destroyers. Tovey's flagships would form part of 7th Cruiser Sqdn. for administrative purposes. (Naval Secretary, 1717/16 to C.-in-C. Med.) Fully concur. Request appointments to be made. (C.-in-C. Med., 1103/17).

Appreciation. — Admiralty. 0227/15, following are my views. (C. in C., Med., 2259/16, see Mediterranean Volume.)

A i r.

Hurricanes. — Instructions for pilots Hurricanes and Skuas re correct routing to Malta. (H.Q., Malta, 1230/16).

Whole project has been most carefully examined in light of naval situation and previous experience with Hurricanes taken off from carriers by pilots without previous carrier training. and it hasbeen decided that the 12 Hurricanes are to be flown into Malta. Aircraft, pilots, key personnel and stores will be embarked in ARGUS in U.K. about 20/7 and on arrival Gibraltar key personnel and stores will be trans-shipped to 2 submarines for onward passage to Malta. For flight to Malta Hurricanes will be escorted by 2 F.A.A. Skuas which are remaining. (Air Min., to H.Q., Malta 1603/16).

Alexandria Raid. — Air raid 2230 to 2330, about twenty bombs, most in sea. One in Ras El Tin Palace, one killed, two injured, no other damage or casualties. (R.A., Alexandria, 0820/17).

East Indies.

CARAIBE. — Informing that officers and men and armament may now be re-embarked, and request when will be ready to sail for Diego Suarez, or as may be ordered by French C. in C., Far East. N.O.I.C. Kilindini to facilitate re-embarkation as much as possible (C. in C., E.I., 0612/16, 0954/16).

East Indies.

Suspicious Seaplane — Report (C.2) from fisherman in Seychelles sighting seaplane 1200Z/15 about 5 miles W. of North Island. Could not have been any British naval aircraft. (C. in C. E. I., 1628Z/16).

Convoys. — Your 1426/12, speeding up convoys in Red Sea. Proposals approved in principle. You should proceed with the necessary messages to give effect to para 5. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1206/16). Your 1242/15. W.2 and W.3 will proceed Sydney after completion disembarkation Colombo. (D. of S.S., to P.S.T.D. Bombay, 2355/16).

China.

Families Evacuation. — In consultation with Colonial Office it is agreed that priority of move from Manila to Australia should be given to service families. Understand from Colonial Office that Governor, Kong Kong, is in communication with Commonwealth Government regarding reception of evacuees from Manila and that they are willing to receive them. (War Office to G.O.C., Hong Kong 1820/16).

America and West Indies.

Martinique. — Admiral Martinique, informs me he intends to send to Casablanca all reserve seamen as soon as situation permits. (C.-in-C. A.W.I., 1011/16 to Admiralty.)

Convoys. — Appears that split convoys considered undesirable. Ships mentioned in my 1223/14 except ANTONIA and SOBIESKI should be able to sail 20/7. SOBIESKI cannot sail for Halifax before 22/7 and may be later. Request instructions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to Admiralty 1258/16).

Undesirable that T.C. 6 be split or that ETTRICK be included in view of slow speed. Revised proposals. (D.O.D.(F) 1819/16).

FIJI, ILLUSTRIOUS — Left Bermuda for Scapa (C.-in-C.A.W.I. 1853/16

War Diary

16.7.40.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MARITZA — Split reports left Sibenik 13/7 for Trieste. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1151/16).

WESER — Will sail from Punta Arenas, Costa Rica, to Manzanillo, Mexico, 1800/16. (Port Limon, 1720/16).

FULDA — At Dairen. Reported from Kobe to have been sold to a Japanese buyer. (D.S.)

NORBURG — Due Istanbul 17/7. (Galatz, 1728/16).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

TERESA SCHIAFFINO)
CAPO ALGA) — At Teneriffe, have arranged to discharge their cargoes of grain. (D.S.)

TROVATORE — At Las Palmas do.

The Asiatic Petroleum Co. have taken action against the following ships:-

CONFIDENZA	6455	tons	at	Jacksonville.
IRCANIA	4815	"	"	"
DINO	5592	"	"	Boston
ALBERTO	6131	"	"	New York
ARSA	5441	"	"	"
AUSSA	5441	"	"	"
COLORADOT	5039	"	"	San Juan
BELVEDERE	6889	"	"	Philadelphia
CLARA	6131	"	"	Savannah

and the Anglo Iranian Co. against:

PIETRO CAMPANELLA 6140 tons at Hampton Roads.

War Diary

16.7.40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

MEMNON — Intercept 0618 G.M.T., S.S.S.S., 53:41 N., 11:44 W., submarine sighted. (Plymouth Radio, 0619/16 G.M.T.).

SCOTTISH MINSTREL — British tanker, 6998 tons, torpedoed in position 334°, 56:0 N., 10:0 W., 23', (FOLKESTONE, 1141/16). (C. in C., W.A. 2102/16). Correct position to read 055°, 56:0 N., 10:0 W., 17. Ship still afloat and burning. (FOLKESTONE, 2013/16). Cancel my 2013/16. Ship has foundered. (FOLKESTONE, 0034/17). Was homeward bound in Convoy HX.55. 56:20 N., 10:18 W., 301° Malin Head 115', Position doubtful. (I.C., 0514/40).

Submarines Reported

0715 — Periscope reported by aircraft 6 miles south of Dodman Point. VANSITTART to investigate. (C. in C., W.A., 0811/16). My 0811. Submarine reported diving in 50:18 N., 4:38 W. (C. in C. W.A., 0932/16). RESTIGOUCHE and HESPERUS to join VANSITTART. Minelaying possible. (C. in C., W.A., 0939/16). Substitute WITHERINGTON for RESTIGOUCHE (C. in C. W.A., 1017/16). Motor A/S Boat from Portland should arrive Fowey about 1330. (C. in C., W.A., 1204/16).

0718 — 53:11 N., 11:44 W., about 55 miles W. by S. from Achill Head, Co. Meyo. Reported by British MEMNON. (see Attacks on Ships).

1140 — About 90 miles N.W. of Malin Head. (SCOTTISH MINSTREL torpedoed).

1126 — 56:0 N., 09:50 W., unreliable fix. (C. in C., W.A. 1249/16).

1000 — Submarine passed Cape Sagres going N.W., source A.O. (Lisbon, 1817/16). (F.O.C.N.A. 2313/16) (I.C., 0514 gives time as 1100/16).

1735 — 55:10 N., 10:0 W., D.F., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1821/16).

1145/13 — Capt. of RAFTFUND reports sighting submarine at 1145/13, 20 miles north of Longships. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 1842/16).

1845 — Position of 6 enemy submarines, 13 minesweepers, 56:30 N., 5:29 E. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn., 1845/16) Minesweepers course 140, 6 submarines submerged course 220. Am being attacked by aircraft (Aircraft 233 Sqdn., 1900/16).

War Diary.

16.7.40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Submarines Reported

0811 — 50:17 N., 4:37 W., 180° Fowey. BROKE, etc., ordered to patrol until 0800/17, when if no contact to return to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A. 1907/16, 1928/16).

2226 — 55:0 N., 11:50 W., 262° Malin Head 156' (I.C., 0514/40).

Destroyer Search

A number of U-boats were outward bound today. R.A.D. to make dispositions for search. Aircraft sighting a submarine to shadow and not attack, the better to enable destroyers to make contact. (C. in C., H.F., 2342/16).

Estimated dispositions:-

1 in Western Approaches,
1 about 100 miles N. of Bloody Foreland, homeward bound.
1 between North Rona and Shetlands, homeward bound.
1 in Northern North Sea, possibly homeward bound. (D.O.R., 317).

War Diary

17.7.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Fleet

GLASGOW, SUSSEX and SOUTHAMPTON, with 7 destroyers, returned to Scapa. As a result of the collision in thick fog off Duncansby Head at 2355/16, GLASGOW's bows are damaged and will require about six weeks to repair. IMOGEN had to be abandoned owing to extensive fire, and is believed to have sunk. SHROPSHIRE is on passage to the Clyde, and YORK on passage to Scapa from Rosyth.

Anti-Submarine Patrol.

Six destroyers were ordered to carry out an anti U-Boat patrol p.m. today in positions east and north-east of the Orkneys, and additional destroyer escort was provided for convoys in the Moray Firth area, with air co-operation.

Shetlands Defence

It has been decided as a temporary measure during the period in which a seaborne expedition is a possibility to appoint a Flag Officer in Command of the Shetlands as an independent command directly under the Admty. It is proposed that he shall exercise local operational control of all units allotted to the defences.

Air Raid at Portland

At 1935 three Heinkels dropped 4 bombs on Mere Oil Fuel Depot of which one or two failed to explode, and 2 bombs on common near Dockyard. No casualties or Naval damage.

Enemy Air Activity

Activity by enemy aircraft was less than normal mainly due to continued adverse weather conditions. Reconnaissance aircraft were active over the Central North Sea, and there was also indication of reconnaissance flights in the Channel area.

The F.S.22 Convoy, 22 miles east of Harwich, was shadowed during the afternoon but not attacked. Only two attacks on shipping were reported during the day, on the FJORD,

Norwegian.....

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Norwegian, 13 miles E. of Dartmouth, at 1404, and on an unknown vessel 7 miles S. of St. Catherine's Point at 1424; no damage or casualties in either case.

Apart from the Portland raid, already mentioned, bombs were dropped at a number of points, but caused no damage of importance and only a few casualties.

British Air Activity

Patrols were much curtailed by bad weather. Special reconnaissances were made of the French coast from St. Malo to Cherbourg. During one patrol, bombs were dropped on Gare Maritime, Cherbourg, but results were not observed due to heavy A/A fire.

Troop Convoys

The Indian Convoy B.C.1 arrived at Liverpool.

Mining

Magnetic mines have been exploded in the Mersey, the Kyles of Bute, in Loch Ewe, off Harwich, round the S.W. Goodwin Buoy, and 1½ miles from the Shipwash L.V.

Liverpool was re-opened at 0600/17.

U-Boat Activity

A particularly savage attack was made upon the Norwegian LENDA in the Western Approaches. Finding her to be unarmed, the submarine approached to 50 yards and shelled her with armour-piercing and incendiary shells. The Master was killed and the ship sank in flames.

War Diary

17.7.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Shipping Losses The total amount of merchant shipping lost by enemy action - British, Allied and Neutral- since the beginning of the war up to July 14 amounts to 613 ships of 2,252,666 tons. Submarines are responsible for 271 ships of 1,137,745 tons; surface craft for 20 ships of 100,101 tons; aircraft for 94 ships of 309,842 tons and mines for 184 ships of 582,577 tons. The cause of the loss of 43 other ships of 119,967 tons is unknown and one ship of 2,434 tons was sunk either by a mine or a torpedo. Of all these losses 300 ships of 1,149,524 tons were British; 84 of 403,442 tons were Allied and 229 of 699,700 tons were Neutral. (D.S.317).

French Ships in Royal Navy

French warships commissioned for service with the Royal Navy are to fly the French Ensign and the White Ensign side by side at the peak or ensign staff a British masthead pendant and the Union Jack at the jackstaff when in harbour or under way and dressed with masthead flags. Although they will be formally commissioned as H.M.Ships they will be described as F.S.CHOSE for French Ship CHOSE.

The French battleship PARIS, manned by Poles, is to be employed as guardship in the Tyne.

French A.M.C. CARAIBE

The French Adty. have directed that the A.M.C. CARAIBE, at Mombasa, which it was agreed with the French C. in C., Far East, should be released on condition that she remained under his command for the duration of the war, is to proceed to Madagascar, but Admiral Decoux, the French C. in C., has replied that he must hold to his promise to bring her to the Far East. He will inform the British C. in C., East Indies, if the French Adty. do not agree.

War Diary

17.7.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Danube

N.A., Bucharest, reports that the Danube situation is deteriorating, and Admiral Kelly suggests to C. in C., Mediterranean that he may wish to put a lien on Roumanian shipping under his control.

Italian Hostilities

The A.O.C., Middle East, reports that with his present slender resources he cannot provide fighters for Haifa nor take counter action against Dodecanese air forces.

The first casualty list of the Italian Navy, issued by the Italian High Command, shows 322 officers and men killed in action, and 149 officers and men wounded.

A floating mine was reported about 100 miles East of La Maddelena.

War Diary

17.7.40
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Shetlands. Decided as temporary measure during the period in which a seaborne expedition is a possibility to appoint a Flag Officer in Command of the Shetlands as an independent command directly under the Admiralty. Intended to limit command to defence of the islands and local defence sea patrols. Anti-submarine patrols and operations will remain under control of Admiral Commanding Orkneys as now. Proposed that F.O.I.C. shall exercise "local operational control" of all units allotted to the defences in accordance with W.O. letter No. 79/HD/1047 (M.O.3), dated 14/12, and Air Min. letter No. S.45085/II/S.6 of 16/12. Request very early reply. (Admty. to W.O. and Air Min., 1648/17).

Movements

Crash Boats My 1306/16. All boats have sailed. Expected time of arrival 1700. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0715/17 to Adty.)

Request 3 Crash Boats now at Portland be instructed to remain for night and proceed Humble 18th. (D.O.D.H. 1833/17 to C. in C. Portsmouth). 3 Crash Boats arrived Humble. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1902/17 to Adty.)

Manning of French Ships. My 1052/16. Amend as follows :-
1. To British crews from Devonport add MISTRAL.
2. From French crews delete MISTRAL.
3. PESSAC and SAUTERNE are to be manned by British crews from Chatham and not repeated not Devonport. (D.O.D.H. 1937/17).

Position of submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 18th July Area A. Clyde TRUANT WILK H.31 H.34 as in my 1716/16 TETRARCH due Rosyth 0700 from North-East TRIDENT T.G.V.D.4040 proceeding on surface to Q.S.M.F. 0920. PORPOISE escorted exercising off Blyth 1100 to 1500. L.23 L.26 exercising a.m. and p.m. West of Hoy. (V.A.S. 1751/17).

Operations.

Attack German salvage ship believed being sent to crashed enemy A/C in 48°58' N., 5°57' W. (C. in C.W.A. 1814/17 to HURRICANE and VOLUNTEER)

Operation ALABASTER

Your 1857/15. Equipment and personnel of R.M.F.U. to assist Military Forces considered fully adequate for agreed task. If conditions changed since arrival of R.M.F.U. request Adty. may be informed. (D. of L.D. 1934/17 to War Office)

HOME COMMANDS (Ctd.)

E-Boats

E-Boat activity off North Foreland. (C. in C. Nore 2357/16)

Air

British Air Activity

Fighter A/C — Proposed revision of rules of approach and recognition when defending H.M. Ships in A/A defended anchorages and when attacking enemy Minelayers. (A.C.N.S.H. 1557/17)

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy BOOTY — Enemy A/C shadowing at 51°49' N., 1°48' E. Course 265° speed 8 knots. (LONDONDERRY 1329/17)

Newport. — 4 Bombs dropped near South Quay at 1625/17. No casualties or damage. (F.O.I.C.Cardiff 1900/18 to C.in C.W.A.)

Portland — At 1935 three Heinkels dropped four bombs on Mere Oil-Fuel Depot of which one or two failed to explode. Two more bombs on Common. No casualties or Naval damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1913/17 to Adty.)

FJORD — Norwegian 4033 tons, bombed 13' E. of Dartmouth at 1404/17. No casualties or damage. (I.C. 0515/40)

Unknown vessel — Attacked 7 miles S. of St. Catherine's Point at 1424/17. No casualties or damage. (I.C.0515/40).

Mining

Liverpool — Port re-opened at 0600/17. (D.C.N.S. 317). One Magnetic Mine apparently self-exploded half cable S. of Q.6. Convoys were swept in and out. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2146/17 to Adty.)

The Downs. — 4 Magnetic Mines exploded by L.L.Trawlers round S.W.Goodwin Buoy (V.A.Dover 1726/17 to Adty.)

Shipwash — One Magnetic Mine exploded at 1604 by Harrier T.V.L.Sweep at 68°Shipwash L.V.1.6 miles. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2327/17 to Adty.)

East Coast Barrier — EXPRESS and IMPULSIVE laid further Mines on the East Coast Mine Barrier. (DC.N.S. 318)

East Coast — Parachute Mines were seen dropping off Harwich, Orfordness, and the North Foreland. (DCNS.318)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Ctd.)

Ports Closed Plymouth, the Kyles of Bute, Harwich, Newhaven, and the Tyne-Blyth Inshore Channel are closed.

Enemy Intelligence

Cherbourg No activity in Docks. Large M/V about 3000 tons sunk about 1000 yds. N.W. of Fort Homet. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1700/17)

Kristiansund One M/V 8,000 tons 11' S.W. of Kristiansund at 1257/17. (I.C. 0515/40)

Main German Units

B/S BISMARCK Hamburg 17/5/40)
B/S TIRPITZ Wilhelmshaven 14/7/40) completing.
B/CR SCHARNHORST Keil, in floating dock, damaged 15/7/40
GNEISENAU Trondheim 23rd June effective. Not present at Trondheim 29/6/40
8" Cruisers 1 at Trondheim 8/7/40)1 may be
1 at Keil 15/7/40)damaged by bomb.
1 at Bremen 9/7/40 presumed to be SEYDLITZ.
NUHNBERG At Trondheim 8/7/40 may be damaged.
LEIPZIG Unknown.
KOLN Keil, 15/7/40, possibly repairing
EMDEN Returned to Germany from Oslo 7/6/40. Probably repairing.
P/B SCHEER Wilhelmshaven 14/7/40 refitting.
P/B LUTZOW Kiel 15/7/40 damaged.
A/C GRAF ZEPPELIN 1 A/C Carrier at Kiel 3/7/40 which may have been GRAF ZEPPELIN not present at Kiel 15/7/40.
Destroyers. 9 to 12 effective, whereabouts unknown. 1 at Kiel 15/7/40.
(D.D.I.C. 1739/17)

Shipping

Convoy F.N.23 Arrived 1030. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1102/17 to Adty.)

Convoy O.A.186 Leaves Methil 0930/18. Close escort SANDWICH and DEPTFORD (C.in C. Rosyth 1313/17)

Iceland Slow Convoy of about 11 ships will leave Clyde for Iceland about 27th July. C. in C.W.A. to detail four ships of Belfast Trawler Force as escort. They will remain in Iceland and bring back ships when unloaded. (D.O.D.H.1307/17 to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary

17.7.40
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Ctd.)

Positions — Estimated positions 2000 today Wednesday. Off Cape Wrath large Convoy H.X.55A passing to eastwards and Breda passing to Southwards. East of Stornoway large Convoy W.N. one escorted by H.M.S. ABERDEEN and H.M.S. HIBISCUS to Northwards also boom defence vessels BARCLIFF and STALBERG. Entering Little Minch H.M.S. SHROPSHIRE to South Westward. Off Noss Head Netherlands Torpedo Boat Z 8 to South The Smalls. (F.O.C.O.S.1637/17).

Dartmouth Naval Control Service — Your 1533/15. This service is now in operation. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1905/17 to Adty.)

Miscellaneous

Resident N.O. in Scilly Islands — Request very early appointment to assist Military. (A.C.W.A. 1834/17 to Adty.)

WEATHER

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea	Depression centred S. North Sea.		
	Variable light to moderate.	Continuous rain particularly in Southern and Western North Sea.	Moderate to poor Local fog or mist associated with rain.
Horns Reef Dutch Coast	S. to S.W. light to moderate.	Rain.	Moderate to poor Local mist or fog.
S.W. Norway	E. light.	Mainly overcast Occ. Rain.	Moderate.
Channel	W. light in East veering N.W. moderate to fresh in west.	Overcast. Occ. rain in East. Cloudy in West.	Moderate to poor Local mist in East. Good in west.
Western Approaches	N.W. moderate to fresh.	Fair to cloudy.	Good.

War Diary

17.7.40
Wednesday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

GLASGOW - IMOGEN Collision

My 2355. Ships locked together IMOGEN abandoning ship to me at 58°34' N., 2°54' W. (GLASGOW 0015/17) IMOGEN believed flooded before bulkhead at fore end of engine-room, and five under her bridge. Have survivors on board. Thick fog. (GLASGOW 0038/17 to F.O.C.O.S.) Ten officers and 125 ratings on board GLASGOW. Several men still on rafts or in boats near wreck. Visibility nil. Estimated position of IMOGEN at 0125 115° Duncansby Head 4' drifting N.W. (GLASGOW 0130/17) A/C will be sent when visibility permits (C.in C. Rosyth 0350/17 to C. in C.H.F.) Tug SALVAGE KING sailed (F.O.C.O.S. 0512/17 to GLASGOW) My speed limited to 12 knots. Request Escort of Destroyer (GLASGOW 0535/17 to R.A.18C.S.) GLASGOW will require docking. Bows badly damaged. Casualties nil, believed missing two. IMOGEN casualties one dead, one serious, six minor, believed missing 21. (GLASGOW 0641/17 to C. in C.H.F.). When visibili permits 7th Division destroyers escort GLASGOW and 8th Division escort IMOGEN and tow (Capt. D.4. 0719/17). GLASGOW's 0535. Detail two destroyers (R.A.18th C.S.0748/17) Am entering Harbour 0915. (GLASGOW from Nore W/T 0850/17) D4D3 with 7th and 8th Destroyer Divisions searching for IMOGEN at 1010/17 (R.A.18.C.S.1045/17 to C. in C.H.F.) IMOGEN casualties one rating dead, one officer nin ratings wounded, seventeen missing (GLASGOW 1221/17 to Adty.)

Collision 8 miles S.E. from Duncansby Head in fog at about 2355/16. GLASGOW considerable damage to bow, requires docking and extensive repair estimated at about six weeks. IMOGEN struck near B gun, had to be abandoned owing to extensive fire Search has failed to locate and ship may have sunk Preliminary estimate of casualties, GLASGOW, 2 believed missing, IMOGEN 1 killed, 7 injured, 21 believed missing. (C. in C.H.F., 1404/17).

GLASGOW required docking for collision damage repair. Should be ready to sail from Scapa about 21st July. (C. in C.H.F. 1603/17 to Adty.)

AYLESBURY — Torpedoed 9th July in Western Approaches is now reported sunk. (D.C.N.S.317)

TROPIC SEA — Norwegian Motor ship, 5781 tons, overdue at Panama since July 10th. (D.S.317)

STEADY — Cable layer, mined and sunk off Newhaven at 1300/17. k killed, 4 wounded, 8 missing. (D.C.N.S.318)

War Diary. 17.7.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

HERMES. Your 1820/16 and 2033/16 approved. When ship is again serviceable, all 814 Sqdn. will be required to re-embark. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C. S.A. 1555/17).

MILFORD.)
DORSETSHIRE.) Patrol areas from Freetown. (re.Admty. 2356/12). (C. in C. S.A. 1245/17).

Mediterranean.

Admiralty Commendation. Congratulations of their Lordships to all concerned on the determined and efficient manner in which the operations between 7th and 13th July were conducted.
(1st S.L. 0209/17 to C. in C. Med.)

OSIRIS. To leave patrol during night of 18-19/7, to arrive Alexandria 0230 G.M.T. 23/7. Proceed between Santorin and Christiani Islands through Scarpento Straits and direct.
(Capt. S.1. 1215/17).

Danube. From Admiral Kelly. Bucharest reports Danube situation deteriorating, lighters and tugs at Braila and Sulina being towed to Harsova. You may wish to put lien on Roumanian shipping under your control.
(N.A. Istanbul, 1225/17 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Intelligence. Add to my 1735/17. Messina. One large merchant ship 10,000 tons. 3 miles off Leggis one 20,000 ton ship, triple-screw, light in ballast, steering north 15 knots through straits, suspected troop ship. Augusta, about 12 merchant ships, 1 large merchant vessel 10,000 tons. 2 miles off Syracuse, 2 destroyers, course 010° 25 knots. (F.O.I.C. Malta 1837/17).

French Navy. Present policy as regards French Navy is to endeavour to improve relations. It is not Admiralty intention to attack further any French warships unless proceeding to an enemy controlled port. Special arrangements on lines Nyon Convention are being negotiated as regards s/ms. H.M. ships are not to open fire on French warships met at sea unless latter fire first, but are to be prepared to attack. (C. in C. Med. 1121/17 to Med. Station).

War Diary. 17.7.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean. (Cont.)

Submarines. Orders to OSWALD, PHOENIX, RORQUAL, PARTHIAN, and OSIRIS. (C. in C. Med. 1731/17).

Operations. Intended for tomorrow 18/7. (submarine hunts, convoys, etc.) (C. in C. Med. 2319/17).

German Imports. Figures from Danube Commission Reports from Iron Gates. Monthly average petroleum products 30,000 tons, compared with monthly figure of 100,000 tons which Germany estimated she could import via Danube alone. (N.A. Belgrade 1900/17).

Casablanca. Admty. 1950/16. Details of work on JEAN BART. Popular opinion that even if instruments available ship would not be ready for six months. One destroyer being degaussed. A/A guns manned during day, night unknown. Gun platform being removed from merchant ships. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 2222/17).

Movements. Summary 133. Submarine patrols. (C. in C. Med. 1943/17).

Commands. Appointments made to date 18/7, Vice-Adm. J.C. Tovey to be V.A.C., Light Forces, and 2nd in Command, Mediterranean Fleet; Rear-Adm. E. de F. Renouf to be R.A.C., 7th Cruiser Sqdn. (Naval Secretary, 2019/17).

Press Communiques. Suggesting a suitable officer with Press experience be sent and granted wide powers under direction of C. in C. Early issue and proper presentation of news in Middle East is of great importance in area so susceptible to propaganda. Italian broadcasts show how much better done by enemy. (C. in C. Med. 2225/17).

GLOUCESTER Adequate repairs to bridge structure can be made in 15 days and then intend ship to Port Said to complete D.E.T. repairs. (C. in C. Med. 1643/17 to Adty.)

Italian Casualties. High Command Italian armed forces issued first casualty list Italian Navy stating that in fighting against France and England 322 officers and men were killed in action and 149 officers and men wounded. (Transocean 0245/18).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Cont.)

Air.

Resources. Your 2259/16, para. 6(b). Considering sending you one additional T.S.R. squadron and one additional fighter squadron later. Can you arrange workshop facilities for these as well as aircraft of ILLUSTRIOUS and EAGLE should it be decided to maintain these 2 carriers in Eastern Mediterranean. Doing everything possible to accelerate provision of F.A.A. repair depot in Egypt.
(5th S.L. to C. in C. Med. 1915/17).

Haifa. Have discussed security of Haifa from air attack with A.O.C., Middle East. With his present slender resources he cannot provide fighters for that port nor take counter action against Dodecanese air forces and aerodromes as he has not modern bombers of sufficient range. (C. in C. Med. 1723/17).

Passage Through Mediterranean. Your 2259/16, para 6(b). Is it your opinion that a concerted movement to pass naval reinforcements through Mediterranean could not be undertaken before ILLUSTRIOUS joined you? If a concerted movement were carried out to pass naval reinforcements from West to East, do you consider some merchant vessels of 16 knots could be passed through at the same time ?
(1st S.L. to C. in C. Med. 1647/17).

Ref. 1647. Consider a concerted movement to pass naval reinforcements could be undertaken before ILLUSTRIOUS joins. Demonstration by Force H towards Gulf of Genoa and a substantial part of Mediterranean Fleet moving into Central Mediterranean would in my opinion cover operations. While condition of affairs in French North Africa is uncertain, am doubtful of wisdom of attempting to pass 16-knot merchant ships at same time, but might be attempted provided it was understood any merchant ship which had her speed reduced by enemy action was abandoned and sunk. If period of unsettled weather conditions could be chosen operation would be facilitated.
(C. in C. Med. 2301/17).

Hurricanes, Delivery. Arrangements for reinforcements for Malta flying off, route and escort. (Air Min. 1824/17 to HQ., RAF, Middle East.)

2 Sunderlands to rendezvous with ARGUS and act as stand-by loaders for Hurricanes should either Skua fail, and to accompany these aircraft as extra escorts. (Air Min. 1025/17 to 200 Group .

WIIRI Finnish, bombed. (See 18/7.)

War Diary. 17.7.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

French Ships. Re YOLANDE BERTIN and HORTENSIA BERTIN. Pending transfer of flag, intend to permit vessels to trade under terms of Admty, 2319/16 and my 0728/16. (C. in C. E.I. 0740 Z/17).

China.

French Liaison. French C. in C. requested me to tell you he would like me to proceed to Hanoi at a later date to facilitated liaison and that I could work in his office. For the present, Chief of Staff will remain Saigon. C. in C. asked me to express to you his continued personal friendship. (Liaison Officer, Saigon, to C. in C. China 0830 Z/17).

French Command. Admiral Decoux informed me today that he will leave Saigon tonight for Hanoi to take over position of Governor-General, Indo-China. Will remain C. in C. Far East Naval Forces, and will take some of his staff with him to Hanoi. Expressed hope British co-operation will enable Indo-China to trade freely in Indian and Pacific and China Sea. Emphasized also necessity to Madagascar and Djibouti of British trade. Assured me he would work loyally with Great Britain in Far East. French Naval Chief of Staff told me (1) Adml. Decoux officially recognises Petain Government and terms of Armistice, but on taking office will emphasize to that Government necessity for co-operation with British in special circumstances of Far East. Should reply be unsatisfactory Adml. Decoux will retire.
(2) Frenchmen in Indo-China have already been warned by Germans that reprisals against their families will be taken unless they support terms Armistice. General Catroux will therefore certainly retire to avoid internment trouble.
(Liaison Officer, Saigon, 0700 Z/17).

CARAIBE. French Chief of Staff informs me French Admiralty have said CARAIBE is to proceed Madagascar, but Admiral Decoux is signalling to say he has promised to bring her to Far East and must hold to that promise. He will inform C.in C. East Indies if French Admiralty do not agree.(Liaison Officer, Singapore to C.in C. China 0800 Z/17).

Suspected Raider. Vessel sighted off South West Africa 2nd May and North of New Zealand 14th June in connection with enemy minelaying activity is very similar to number 11 German section Booth 1939. It appears possible that funnel and after superstructure are movable as reports conflict regarding distance between bridge and funnel. Request this information be promulgated. (Capt.O.S. Singapore 1001 Z/17).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Convoys

Adty. 1819/16. SOBIESKI repairs will be completed p.m. 19/7 and ship will sail immediately for Halifax. ANTONIA not yet reported in St. Lawrence and do not anticipate T.C.6 can be sailed till am/24/7. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1516/17). ANTONIA sighted. Due Montreal am/19/7. Endeavouring to sail T.C.6 24/7. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1806/17).

Oiler

ORANGELEAF due Gibraltar 4/8. Two of crew only wish to leave ship. Lieut. Com. Bennet takes over 18/7. (S.N.O., Trinidad, 1530/17).

French
LANGUEDOC

Captain and crew anxious to serve Allies, but will not accept conditions because of their fate as rebels, retaliation on families, and internment prior to repatriation. Master's word to remain here has been accepted. Asking instructions. (DUNEDIN, 1618/17). Your 1618. You should suggest to Governor that crew be given 24 hours in which to make their decision, and at end of this time appropriate action be taken by Governor in accordance para. 5 of Circular Maritime 34 from S. of S. for Colonies. Adty. inform me it is intended in due course to form composite French crew to serve in requisitioned ships. This might bear some weight with present crew in making their decision. (C. in C., A.W.I., to DUNEDIN, 1911/17).

War Diary

17.7.40.
Wednesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

INGO	Split reports is at Zelenika. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1015/17).
MARITZA	Split reports is expected at Dubrovnik. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1015/17).
WESER	Reported sailed 16/7 from Punta Arenas, Costa Rica. Had been previously reported that her destination would be Manzanillo, Mexico. (D.D.I.C., 2040/17).
REKUM	5540 tons, left Teneriffe 2200/17 with cargo estimated 8000 tons of gas oil. (Teneriffe, 2300/17).
EISENACH	4177 tons, reported to be preparing to sail from Punta Arenas. (I.C., 0515/40).
KONSUL SCHULTE	Asked on 16/7 to report if damaged mast required further repairs, and replied that main mast had been repaired but foremast still required repairing. (I.C., 0514/40).
ERNST L.M. RUSS	Due at Holtenau 0500/17 and requested provisions. (I.C., 0514/40).
PATRICIA	Was informed 15/7 her port of discharge was Danzig and not Stettin. (I.C., 0514/40).
HERCULES	Arrived Gothenburg from Bremen 16/7. (I.C.0514/40)
CORDELIA	To bunker at Odessa about 20/7. (I.C.0514/40).
DELOS	Arrived Poti 12/7 and expected to leave after bunkering on 14/7. (I.C., 0514/40).
ITHAKA	Was at Batum on 14/7. (I.C., 0514/40).
YALOVA	Due to leave Braila 20/7 for Batum. (I.C., 0514/40).

War Diary

17.7.40.
Wednesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

NICOLO — 6003 tons. Presumed handed back to Italy under announcement that by Armistice terms France is restoring ships taken in prize. Was seized at Marseilles. (D.S.)

VOLPI — At Puket, Thailand. Trieste owners enquired on 12/7 if possible to discharge and store all cargo at Puket. (I.C., 0514/40).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

ARGYLE 2953 tons)
PROVIDENCIA 1630 tons) Laid up at Santa Rosalia, Mexico, by Compagnie du Boles for fear they should be captured by G.B. (D.S.)

War Diary

17.7.40.
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked

LENDA	Norwegian 4005 tons attacked by U-boat at 0950/17, 160 miles S.W. from Fastnet Rock. Finding her unarmed, the submarine approached to 50 yards and shelled with armour piercing and incendiary shels until she sank in flames. Master killed. 25 of the crew saved. (D.S. 17/7).
O.A. BRODIN	Swedish, 1960 tons, torpedoed at 0420/17 in 59:22 N., 03:40 W. and sank shortly afterwards. 21 survivors picked up by M/S trawler SICYON at about 1400/17. Three of crew lost. Nothing seen before explosion, but afterwards periscope and high conning tower of U-boat seen, steering west. O.A.BRODIN was sailed from St. Johns N.F., to Ridham Docks, routed through Minches to Kirkwall for orders. No information of sailing received by F.O.C.N.P. or N.C.S.O. Kirkwall. (F.O.C.N.P. 1929/17).
MANIPUR	British, 8652 tons, torpedoed at 2315/17 about 8 miles W. of Cape Wrath. 64 survivors (SKEENA, 0145/18). 58:41 N., 05:14 W. Request air cooperation in hunt for U/B (HAMBLEDON, 0231/18, to S.N.O., Scapa Forces). DIANA, BERKELEY and GARTH to assist. (C. in C., H.F., 0430/18). 7 Europeans including 3rd. Officer and 2nd and 4th Engineers, and 7 Asiatirs lost. (C. in C., Rosyth 1725/19 to Adty.)
STEADY	British cable laying ship, 214 tons, under Govt. Charter, mined at 1300/17 off Newhaven and sunk. 1 man killed, 4 injured, 8 missing. (D.S.)

Submarines Reported

0420	59:22 N., 03:40 W., O.A. BRODIN torpedoed.
2315	58:41 N., 05:14 W., MANIPUR attacked.
2310	56:40 N., 12:0 W., 298° Malin Head 172', position indefinite. (I.C., 0515/40).

War Diary

17.7.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Mediterranean

Submarines Reported

Aircraft report, number of Italian submarines at Tobruk increased from 3 on July 12 and 4 on July 15 to 5 on July 17 (D.S.)

War Diary

18.7.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Crash Boats — Three leaving Portland at 0845 for Hamble. Expected arrive Needles 1300. No W/T. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0830/18 to F.O.I.C. Southampton). Cancel my 0830. Crash Boats returned owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1520/18 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Menai Straits N. Patrol — 5 Motor A/P Yachts sailed for Menai Bridge (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1217/18 to Adty).

Moray Firth — ASHANTI and MASHONA patrol at 58:30 N., 1:45 W. to cover Convoys across Moray Firth. (R.A.D. Home Fleet 1415/18).

Submarines Positions — Position of Submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 19/7 Area A.

Clyde TRUANT, WILK H31, H34 as in my 1716/16. TRIDENT X Z S C 0020 proceeding on surface to Q S M F 0920. (V.A.S. 1714/18).

Position of submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 19/7 Area B.

TIGRIS approximately R.P.M.A. proceeding to K.Q.Q.G. 4130. (V.A.S. 1716/18).

Submarines

Plymouth Sanctuary — In view of nearness of a hostile coast and the fact that a U/Boat has been sighted in Plymouth Submarine Sanctuary it is intended to abolish the Sanctuary as such and introduce a Submarine exercise area bounded by the coast, a line 238 degrees from Rame Head, and the Meridian of 4 degrees 30' West. (C. in C., W.A. 1521/18 to Adty.)

E-Boats

3 M.T.B's bearing 150° distance 3' course unknown from 294° 50:0 N. 0:0 E. 19 miles. (STURDY 2320/18).

War Diary

18.7.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Your 2052/3. Decided to consider coast line of Portsmouth command as a whole and to use material as it becomes available on most vulnerable beaches starting from East and working West. Material available at Portsmouth being laid in order of priority outlined in my 1437/5. Table Cloth net being laid now off Newhaven-Seaford and an extemporised wire and float obstruction 3 miles in length off Eastbourne - Bexhill. It is intended to weigh this temporary obstruction when it can be replaced by proper service A/S equipment and relay further to the West. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1233/18 to Adty.)

Policy

U-Boats Following is extract from Patrol Report of TAKU. "Under present conditions of light in Northern waters it is considered that hours when sun is below horison are the worst for charging as aircraft are very difficult to see until fairly close". Other Patrol Reports have emphasised opportunities presented to aircraft of surprising submarines on surface at night if latter are approached from down moon. Considered that present conditions of light and moon should prove most profitable for destruction of enemy submarines providing they can be relentlessly harassed and pursued night and day by aircraft working with surface ships. (V.A.S. 1056/18 to A.C.O.S.)

French Submarines Your 1222. Pending further instructions French Submarines are not to be attacked. (1st S.L. 1340/18 to V.A.S.)

Shetlands Defence Objections to Adty. proposals 1648/17. (C.I.G.S. to Adty. Recd. 2112/18).

War Diary

18.7.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity

Bawdsey — At 0040/18 three bombs on R.D.F. Station. No damage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0440/18 to C. in C., Nore).

Felixstowe — At 0047/8 three bombs. No casualties or damage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0440/18 to C. in C., Nore).

Crail R.N.A.S. — Attacked at 1845/18 by one Bomber. 26 H.E. bombs dropped. 2 hits, slight damage. (C.D.B. 1247/19).

Convoy ARENA — Being attacked by aircraft 52:4 N. 1:50 E. (WOLSEY 1103/18). Fighters sent (C. in C., Nore 1107/18 to WOLSEY) 3 aircraft withdrew to North (WOLSEY 1112/18).

Goodwin L.V. — Bombed and sunk at 1007/18. Not manned. (V.A. Dover 1121/18 to Adty.)

LADY MADELINE, SPHENE — A/S trawlers bombed and machine-gunned off Aldeburgh Float. SPHENE on fire. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1238/18 to Adty.) ARROW to assist (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1135/18 to ARROW).

CAPE FINNISTERRE — On look-out Patrol. Bombed and machine-gunned. Returning with Casualties. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1238/18 to Adty.)

STELLA LEONIS — At 52:4 N., 1:56 E. machine-gunned, holed, engines out of action. FLEMING and BERBERIS to stand by. (WOLSEY 1212 to C. in C. Nore). Slowly sinking. One wounded and 2 killed. One Destroyer to assist. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1458/18 to D.16). MONTROSE sent (Capt. D.16 1426/18 to MONTROSE). In tow of ST. OLAVES. Making 3 knots. Hopes reach Harwich (VENOMOUS 1600/18)

Convoy JUMBO

Enemy aircraft at 57:0 N. 1:9 W. (SKEENA 1606/18).

Swansea — 0045/0130/18. Nine Bombs on G.W. Railway. Some damage. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1900/18 to C. in C., W.A.)

War Diary

18.7.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Am being shadowed by one aircraft 150:8 My position 070° Dungeness 7'. (CODRINGTON 1040/18).

Convoy W.N.1.

Enemy aircraft attacking at 57:50 N., 2:0 W. (HIBISCUS 1900/18). Fightersent (C. in C., Rosyth, 1911/18).

Convoy TOPAZ

Being shadowed by Enemy aircraft 58:1 N., 2:11 W. (SKEENA ~~1~~ 1515/18). Fighters have left (Rosyth 1530/18).

SAPPHIRE	A/S trawler bombed at 1600 near Kentish Knock L.V. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/18 to Adty.). Machine gunned. No casualties. (AMBUSCADE 1912/18 to N.O.I.C. Harwich).
TURQUOISE	A/S trawler bombed at 1600 near Kentish Knock L.V. Damaged and casualties. AMBUSCADE to assist. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/18 to Adty.). Machine-gunned. 28 wounded, 6 serious. (AMBUSCADE 1912/18 to N.O.I.C. Harwich).
SUNK L.V.	Reported attacked and holed on waterline at 1608. No casualties and not making water. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1805/18 to Adty.)
ST. NECTAR) LADY SHIRLEY)	Bombed near Shipwash L.V. No damage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/18 to Adty.)
CORK L.V.	Attacked by 9 aircraft. No hits. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/18 to Adty.)

War Diary

18.7.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Convoy RUSTY

3 bombs dropped on convoy off Kinnaird Head (ABERDEEN 1920/18). Being shadowed by one aircraft at 57:42 N., 1:40 W. (ABERDEEN 1947/18).

RINOVIA — Auxiliary M/S trawler machine-gunned at 1415/18 when sweeping Western Approach Channel. 2 Ratings killed and 1 wounded. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2331/18 to Adty.)

British Air Activity

All anti-invasion air patrols cancelled except S.16. Coastal Patrol 30 miles out between Leuchars and Wick. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2000/18 to Adty.)

Fighter Aircraft — Suggested additions to proposed new rules of approach and recognition. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1231/18 to Adty.) (C. in C., Nore 1914/18 to Adty.)

Emden — Docks and towns bombed at 2345/18. Many fires started. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0455/19).

Havre — Hargour warehouses bombed at 1210/18. Result not observed. (Chatham, 1453/18).

Escorts — My 1948/17 (air searches for 18/7). Regret air escort cannot now be provided. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0010/18).

War Diary

18.7.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Aircraft observed dropping mines at 51:28 N., 1:27 E. (VIMY 0138/18 and 0201/18). Position of mines from N.E. Spit Buoy (VIMY 0315/18 to C. in C., Nore).

STELLA LEONIS reports aircraft dropped Black Object 090° Orfordness 12'. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0237/18 to C. in C. Nore). Dan position. remain there and keep traffic to westward of it (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0339/18 to STELLA LEONIS). Amend position to 090° Orfordness 12-8 miles (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0452/18 to Adty.)

CORBRAE exploded Magnetic mine 220° sunk L.V. 5-8 miles (C. in C., Nore 1753/18 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Cherbourg — No change since 11/7. (PIU.1312/18).

St. Malo — No change since 5/7. (PIU.1312/18).

Hook — No concentration or movements of ships in this area. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0630/18).

Boulogne — 20 M/Vs in harbour at 1120/18. No barges. (Chatham, 1327/18 to H.Q.C.C.)

Havre — At 1205/18 one large M/V approaching harbour. 20 small vessels in N.W. docks and several coasters in Eastern Docks. (Chatham, 1453/18).

Trouville — Empty at 1220/18. (Chatham, 1453/18).

Unknown enemy units at 58:2 N., 4:32 E. course 300° at 2015/18. (D.D.I.C. 2059/18) (R.A.S. 2139/18 to submarines).

At 1230/18 in 49:32 N., 0:41 W. 15 to 20 Fishing Smacks course 360°. (Chatham, 1453/18).

Cherbourg — 20 or 30 small vessels or Barges in W. side of harbour. (Chatham, 1551/18).

At 1211/18, 3 small vessels in 49:42 N., 1:25 W. (Chatham, 1551/18).

War Diary

18.7.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

ORDUNA sails Liverpool 1600/18 for Lisbon with French Diplomatic Staff. Marked on sides and lighted at night. (C. in C., W.A. 1220/18).

Convoy SL.41 Route (D.T.D. 2005/18 to N.C.S.O. Freetown). Sailing Telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1508/18).

26 ships will leave Spithead bound East between 1600 and 2130. Request fighter protection over Portsmouth and Eastern Channels from 1700 to dark. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1123/18 to H.Q.F.C.) My 1123/18. Read "Eastern Channels from 1900 to dark" (C. in C., Portsmouth 1617/18).

Convoys OA.186 sailed 0930/18. 33 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1041/18).

WN.2 Sailing Telegram. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1015/18).

FN.24 arrived. 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1341/18)

Weather

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	N.E. fresh in N. variable in centre; S.W.S. moderate or fresh in S.	Moderate or poor; good in S.	Similar. Visibility deteriorating in S.
Channel and W. Approaches	W. moderate.	Good.	Wind backing S.W. Visibility deteriorating.
Horns Reef	S.W. moderate or fresh.	Moderate or poor; local fog.	Visibility improving.
Dutch Coast	W.S.W. moderate or fresh.	Good.	Similar.
S.W. Norway	Variable or Easterly moderate or fresh.	Moderate or poor.	Similar.

WAR DIARY

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

18.7.40
Thursday

IMOGEN.

Air and surface searches have failed to locate IMOGEN and ship must be presumed sunk. (C.-in-C. H.F. 0914/18 to Admiralty). ATHERSTONE to search mainland S. of Stroma for wreck of IMOGEN. (C.-in-C. H.F. 1247/18 to R.A.D.)

GANGES - CLAN MACFARLANE

In collision. CLAN MACFARLANE sunk, 47 survivors. GANGES steaming slow speed, collision bulkhead requires attention. (N.O.I.C., Karachi, 0512/18).

My 0512/18. Course 080, speed 8 knots, bound Bombay. (N.O.I.C. Karachi 0801/18).

War Diary

18.7.40
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Gibraltar Raid. Two aircraft, identified by Army A.A. defence as French Glen-Martin, but identified by R.A.F. and Naval gunners as P.32 or Heinkel 111, raided Gibraltar 0250 hours 18th July. 15 heavy bombs dropped on catchment areas and buildings on southern half of rock. Casualties three civilians and one R.A. gunner killed. Several other slight injuries incurred. Aircraft engaged by A.A. defences but without apparent result. (Governor, Gibraltar, 1430/18)

South Atlantic

Shipping Routes My 1313/12. Admty. instructions 0040/15. Except for coastal convoys merchant shipping is not to be routed through Western Approaches or English Channel. (C.in C.S.A.0930/18)

MILFORD To visit St. Vincent P.M.27/7 (C. in C.S.A., 1028/18)

DRAGON, Duala. Most undesirable DRAGON should remain stationary at Duala much longer. Propose basing her on Lagos for protection of Gulf of Guinea and possibly operations against Fernando Po and Spanish Guinea. Request you will report when you consider DRAGON can be released from Duala without causing collapse of French resistance. (C. in C.S.A. 1339/18 to Governor, Lagos.)

RICHELIEU Details of damage (C. in C.S.A.1033/18 to Adty.)

Mediterranean

Orders to Submarines H.M. Submarines on patrol in Mediterranean have instructions to sink at sight any ships met within 30 miles of the coast of Italian North Africa and Italian ships met within 30 miles of any Italian territory. (Admty, 0058/18)

Appreciation of situation C. in C. Mediterranean's 2259/16. Concur generally subject to following remarks (see Mediterranean Volume). (S.O. Force H, 1105, 1110/18)

PHOENIX, Enemy Ships. My 1731/17. After embarking torpedoes PHOENIX is to proceed to patrol off Augusta and Syracuse where a concentration of troop ships is reported. Leave patrol 2000/24 for Alexandria. (C. in C.Med 1109/18)

RORQUAL My 1731/17 and 1109/18. RORQUAL on completion minelaying to return to Alexandria, route. (C. in C.Med., 1113/18)

OSWALD Orders for patrol (Capt. S.I. 1401/18)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Ctd.)

TIGRIS — In view of C. in C.Med's 1121/17 request confirmation that it is intended that TIGRIS should attack French submarines in accordance with Admty. 1357/8. Her present orders F.S.C.i. instruct her to attack French submarine submerged or unescorted. In view of fact that TIGRIS may encounter French submarine at any time request very early reply (V.A.S. to Admty. 1222/18)

Movements. — Summary No.134 (C. in C., Med., 0901/18)

Attack on Malta — No enemy air activity for 3 days. In view of reconnaissance reports of number of merchant ships assembled in Sicily this may presage lull before the storm. Has Admty. any intelligence which might indicate an impending attack on Malta? (V.A.Malta 2105/18)

Air

Reconn. — Result of air reconnaissance Palermo. 5 destroyers 3 merchant ships 2 to 4 thousand tons, large number of small craft and barges. Little or no movements (F.O.I.C., Malta, 1255/18)

Summary of air reconnaissances at Messina, Augusta, Syracuse, and Tobruk (I.C. 0515/40)

Greek Neutrality — Your tel. 452, 12/7. BRITISH UNION left Greek waters July 12. Ref. bombing of HYDRA, most certainly not British aircraft. Italian aircraft have repeatedly infringed Greek neutrality, apart from bombing of BRITISH UNION. They flew over Crete to attack British convoy and cruiser squadron on 30/6. Did so again in large numbers on 8/7 to attack British Fleet, and it appears they must have infringed Greek neutrality again in order to locate BRITISH UNION when they left. Assume you have made strongest protests to Greek Govt. (C.in C., Med., to Minister, Athens, 1031/14, recd. 1525/18)

ARGUS — Asking maximum continuous speed she can maintain (D.O.D.(F) 2212/18).

MIIRI — Finnish 3525 tons, with naval clearance from Gibraltar to Piraeus, bombed 17/7. Abandoned 30 miles off Malta. Crew of 26 landed in Malta. (F.O.I.C.Malta, 2153/18).

Balearic Islands. — Is there any indication that Italian reconnaissance aircraft are operating from Balearic Islands? (A.C.N.S.(F) 2311/18 to S.O. Force H)

War Diary

18.7.40
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (ctd.)

Mining

Floating mine reported 17/7 approx. 100 miles E. of La Maddelena. (I.C. 0515/40)

East Indies

French Attitude

My 1010/13. Both Governor and Le Gentilhomme have told French Emissary that it is impossible to carry out armistice terms and he has returned to Addis Ababa. Movements of Black Watch now at 24 hours notice. (C. in C.-E.L.0016/18)

GANGES - CLAN MCFARLANE

Collission (See Casualties)

CARAIBE

B.N.L.O. 0930/15 and my 0612/16. CARAIBE is now ready to sail. Propose to sail her at 1400Z/19 for Diego Suarez to await orders from French C.in C. Far East. (C.in C.E.I. 1350Z/18) Approved. (D.O.D.(F) 2308/18).

America and West Indies

ANTONIA

re dates of arrivals and cargo. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1023/18, 1531/18)

Enemy Raider

DUNEDIN, DIOMEDE, Netherland cruiser SUMATRA, to raise steam with all despatch. Further orders follow. (C. in C., AW.I., 1221/18). Armed German ship about 9,000 tons sank British merchant ships about 13/7 in approx. positions 20° N., 60° W., and 18° N., 54°30' W., Patrols to be assumed forthwith. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1251/18)

My 1251. Before commencing aptrol, proceed Saint Bartholomew where 41 survivors landed. Embark and take them Balboa. Report possible details of raider after interrogation survivors. Admiral Martinique informed. (C. in C.A.W.I. 1611/18 to DIOMEDE) Departures of SUMATRA and DIOMEDE (S.O.I. Kingston, 1700/18)

China

French Ships

Admty. 2319Z/16. Action in accordance with last para. being taken with ILE DE FRANCE at Singapore. At Saigon are D'ARTAGNAN and MARECHAL JOFFRE in R.M.C. category. Intend to inform French C. in C. that these latter will be requisitioned if they proceed to a British port, but before doing so request whether they should be seized if met at sea unless specially exempt for trade on station with French guarantee. (C. in C. China, 0509Z/18)

WAR DIARY | GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. | 18.7.40. Thursday

REKUM

Left Teneriffe 2200/17 loaded 8000 tons gas oil. (G.O.I., Gibraltar, 0809/18) Previously named HERON and WAR SHIKARI, description (D.D.I.C., 1034/18). Repeated (C.-in-C. W.A. 1330/18, C.-in-C. S.A., 1915/18).

NORBURG.

Left Galatz 16/7 for Istanbul. (I.C. 0515/40).

FULDA, BREMERHAVEN

Lloyds Agent, Daisen, understands Mitsui Daisen, will take delivery of FULDA on behalf of Japanese purchasers. Also stated that BREMERHAVEN will be similarly sold to Japanese. (G.O.I., Shanghai, 0629Z/18

LARISSA

Probable date of arrival July 21 in ballast. (Macrae, Galatz, 0944/18).

WESER.

My 1720/16. Believed WESER may change name to HOPE TERAM. Ship left Punta Arenas 1940/16 travelling north at 7½ knots. Information from British Vice-Consul, San Jose, B.Z. (Limon, 1735/18).

War Diary

18.7.40
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked

- Norwegian, torpedoed 0859/18, 55°50' N., 09°00' W., 46° N.W. Bloody Foreland. (D.S.)

Submarines Reported

0923) Probably same U/B 0940) — 20' N.W. of Cape Wrath, position indefinite. 59°10' N., 5°20' W., 342° Cape Wrath 32', position approximate.

2046 — D.F. 47°40' N., 14° W., unreliable fix. (C.in C.W.A. 2219/18)

2208 — D.F. probably U-boat in vicinity of Sunburgh Head, unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 2243/18)

0231 — Request air co-operation in hunt for U/B (assailant of MANIPUR (see 17/7) position 58°41' N., 05°14' W., (HAMBLEDON, 0231/18). DIANA, BERKELEY and GARTH ordered to assist. (C. in C.H.E. 0430/18, 0530/18 R.A.D. 0540/18) Hudson A/C left Wick L730 to co-operate (C. in C. Rosyth, 0740/18)

1630 — U-Boat reported leaving Lough Swilly (C. in C.W.A. 1654/18)

Estimated Dispositions

Probably 1 West of Hebrides homeward.
1 in North Rona-Cape Wrath area. (I.C. 0515/40)

Search by Destroyers.

My 2342/16 (dispositions to hunt number of U-Boats outward bound). Request air co-operation may be continued today in vicinity of Groups A and B. BEDOUIN and ASHANTI to report their intended positions at 0600. (C.in C.H.F., 0006/18) Positions (BEDOUIN 0250/18, ASHANTI, 0344/18). Regret air cooperation not available (C. in C., Rosyth, 0536/18). My 0536. Aircraft now available to cooperate in hunt and will join you about 0915. (C. in C., Rosyth to BEDOUIN 0812/18). Destroyers to hunt. (C. in C., H.F. 1247/18)

Submarines Attacked

1430 — Bombs on oil streak, position RGTV 2156 (? 55:21 N. 09:04 W.) No result. (Aircraft J.210 1430/18).

War Diary

19.7.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

(1) Decided as temporary measure during period in which seaborne expedition is a possibility to appoint a Flag Officer in Command of the Shetlands, as an independent Command directly under Adty. (2) Command will be limited to defence of the Islands and local defence sea patrols. Anti-submarine patrols and operations remain under control of Admiral Commanding Orkneys, as now. (3) Admiral of the Fleet the Earl of Cork and Orrery has been selected for this appointment and will proceed North pm today Friday. (1st S.L. 1637/19).

Your 2052/3. Two locally constructed anti-motor vessel obstructions are being placed opposite possible landing Beaches North and South side of Tyne entrance, North side complete. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1837/19 to Adty.)

Policy

My 1134/14 applies only to the few ships that the Adty. may notify to you as approved from time to time. As approval will only be given in exceptional cases it is most important not to allow the Swedes to think otherwise. (A.C.N.S.T. 0027/19 to Consul, Stockholm).

V.A.S. 1056/18/7/40. I quite agree but we have not seen the sun, moon or stars for over a week. However, 12 out of the 17 Home Fleet Destroyers available were employed yesterday hunting U.boats. What is required is more A/S vessels and aircraft as the areas to be covered are large. (C. in C., H.F. 1109/19 to Adty.)

Movements

ARGUS — Your 1651/19. Ready to sail with aircraft embarked pm/21st. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2209/19) Your 2212/18 Maximum speed 18 knots (ARGUS 1055/19 to Adty.)

War Diary

19.7.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

Position of Submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 20th July, Area A.

CLYDE vicinity of GBMF 3030.
TRIDENT QBMF 0920 leaving pm to relieve CLYDE.
WILK JZLZ 3500.
H.31 and H.34 in H. one H.two.
TRUANT QBMF 4530 leaving pm on the surface for Rosyth.
SNAPPER and TRITON leave Rosyth pm on the surface north-eastward.
H.50 leaves Sheerness 1000 unescorted on surface to Harwich.
THAMES escorted by WHITE BEAR left Rothesay 1900 19th July for Dundee.
NARWHAL leaves Blyth 0600 20th July unescorted on surface to Immingham.
(V.A.S. 1712/19).

Position of submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 20th July, area B.

TIGRIS vicinity KQQG 4130.
(V.A.S. 1713/19).

Following are estimated positions at 2000 today Friday.

Large convoys WN.2 East of Stornoway proceeding N.E. and OA 186 North of Orkneys proceeding S.W.
GLASGOW, INGLEFIELD, ASHANTI, MASHONA N.W. of Dunnett Head proceeding W.
SOUTHAMPTON, BEDOUIN, PUNJABI off Aberdeen proceeding S.
FORTUNE, FURY, DIANA searching for U/B vicinity of Cape Wrath.
ZULU, HAMBLEDON, FERNIE, approaching Pentland Firth from Westward.
On GLASGOW passing Cape Wrath about 2300, DIANA joins escort and ASHANTI, MASHONA return to Scapa.
ISTRIA towing CONWAY CASTLE escorted by WINDERMERE leaving Thurso proceeding E. and S.
(A.C.O.S. 1726/19).

War Diary

19.7.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation F.D.22

NARWHAL leaves Immingham 1500/22 (S.6 1739/19 to Adty.)

As soon as air reconnaissance shows that sufficient M.Vs are anchored in Le Verdon Roads or alongside the wharfs at Le Verdon at the mouth of the Gironde, a naval attack by destroyers or ships boats using depth charges is to be carried out to destroy the M.Vs. Air attack will be used against ships further up the river. Request you report when ready to carry out his operation. (Adty. 2301/19 to C. in C., W.A.)

Iceland

Situation as to RMFU (Alabaster 1624/19).

E-Boats

Terschelling

Five E-Boats sighted off Terschelling at 2315/19. Aircraft report. (D.C.N.S. 320).

Air

British Air Activity

Having regard to enemy force reported at sea today Friday request special endeavour be made to carry out air reconnaissance of Trondheim as soon as possible. (C. in C., H.F. 2246/19 to Adty.)

At 1945/19, seven M.Vs and three destroyers at 55:45 N., 6:35 E. were bombed. No hits. (Donibristle 2345/19).

Emden

Attacked during night 18/19. Bombs straddled Southern Quay of New Inner Harbour, starting fires visible 40 miles. (THI 0345/20).

Obrestad

At 1540/19 a Norwegian M/V of 2000 tons was machine-gunned and hit off Obrestad in S.W. Norway. (D.C.N.S.320).

Fensfjord

At 1630 a Norwegian M/V of 4,000 tons was bombed in Fensfjord, N. of Bergen. Crew took to boats. (D.C.N.S. 320)

War Diary

19.7.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Air Activity (Contd.)

Force RX consisting of 2 Crs. and 6 Drs. reported in position TGLZ 5135 at 1535 hours course 180° speed 20 knots is to be attacked by 5 Hudsons from Leuchars and 4 Hudsons from Thornaby armed with 250 lb. SAP bombs. Aircraft to leave base as soon as possible. Report by W/T is to be made as soon as contact with the enemy is established, for the guidance of a striking force from Bomber Command. One Thornaby Aircraft will remain and shadow for as long as possible provided there is adequate cloud cover. (A.C.H.Q. Donibristle, 1654/19 to Adty.).

At 1950/19 four aircraft unsuccessfully attacked 3 destroyers and 7 M.Vs (D.C.N.S.320).

Fighter Aircraft — Proposals for revised rules of Approach and Recognition in Adty. 1557/17 concurred in with exception of para. D.1 for which amendment suggested. (C. in C., W.A. 2341/19 to Adty.)

Willemsoord — Bombed at 0130/19. Hits on docks and town. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0455/19).

Harlingen — Bombed at 0119/19. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0455/19).

Anti-Invasion Patrols — Details of patrols to be flown daily. Previous signals on subject cancelled. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1146/19 to Adty.).

Enemy Air Activity

SPENE — Captain reports attack yesterday was by aircraft the first of which had R.A.F. markings. Casualties caused by one-inch projectiles which pierced bulled-proof plating. (C. in C. Nore 0741/19 to Adty.)

BEAGLE — Heavily bombed by large formation at 1215/19. No casualties. Damage to Gyro suspension from near misses. (V.A.Dover 1601/19 to Adty.)

War Diary

19.7.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Dover — 21 bombs dropped at 1550/19 by about 9 bombers. GRIFFIN and Oiler WAR SEPOY slightly damaged. WAR SEPOY making water. No casualties. (V.A. Dover 1632/9).

M/V — At 1630/19 in 60:51 N., 5:3 E., large Norwegian M.Vs was attacked. Crew took to boats. (Donibristle 2000/19).

M.A/S.B No.8 — Attacked during day off Aldeburgh by 2 aircraft with machine gun. 2 ratings killed, 20 officers and 1 rating slightly wounded. (D.C.N.S. 320).

Mining

Water-borne Barrages — Consideration being given to provision of water-borne Balloon Barrages to deter minelaying aircraft in Approach Channels at Bristol Channel, Liverpool, and Clyde. Request every facility for R.A.F. reconnaissance officers. (D. of L.D. 2326/18).

Spurn Point — L.L. trawlers exploded 2 red mines 3' and 3½' E. of Spurn Point Light House. (F.O. Humber, 2154/19).

Liverpool — Queens and Crosby Channels swept 6 times with 2 pairs LL. Two mines detonated, probably blue. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 2259/19).

Aircraft dropping mines at (position illegible) (VIMY 2337/19).

Magnetic mines exploded — One magnetic mine exploded in Loch Ewe, 1 in Bristol Channel, 2 in Humber, 2 in Mersey, and 1 in Ribble. 3 are being recovered in Liverpool area. (D.C.N.S. 320).

Ports closed — Milford, Rosyth, Tyne, Plymouth, Newhaven, the inshore Tyne-Blyth Channel, the Kyles of Bute, and between Flatholm and Steepholm in the Bristol Channel are closed. Liverpool is closed. (D.C.N.S. 320)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Bristol Channel

A heavy explosion heard near Flatholm at 0100/19 (N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1016/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence

Flushing

PRU sortie shows negligible activity or shipping. No aircraft visible. (PRUIS, 0245/19 to N.I.D.).

Two destroyers course 110° speed 15 knots bearing 090° 5 miles my position 270 Lister. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn. 1325/19). Position 58:6 N., 6:29 E. (C. in C., Rosyth 1458/19 to submarines).

At 1935/19 in 55:17 N., 6:35 E. 2 minesweepers and 2 fishing smacks. Aircraft report. (Donibristle, 2345/19).

At 1945/19, 2 cruisers and 5 destroyers steering South 150' S. of Lister. (D.C.N.S. 320).

1 cruiser, 2 destroyers, 216° 8 miles course 140??? (F. Boat 9029, 1450/19).

2 cruisers, 6 destroyers bearing 360:6 course 180° my position 56:45 N. 6:35 E. speed x 20 knots (Aircraft 230 Sqdn 1535/19).

Texel

At 0142/19, forty small Fishing Vessels and 2 small M/Vs (H.Q.B.C. 2000/19).

At 1110/19 in 57:20 N., 7:0 E. three Danish Fishing Boats. (Donibristle 1525/19).

At 1335 in 58:0 N. 6:0 E. 2 destroyers steering 110 at 15 knots. Aircraft report. (Donibristle, 1720/19).

Havre

At 1612/19 about 9 vessels in harbour of which 2 certainly warships larger than destroyers; and one vessel at anchor 1 mile S.W. of Inner Harbour entrance. Aircraft report (Chatham, 1815/19).

Cherbourg

No shipping at 1618/19 (Chatham 1815/19).

War Diary

19.7.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

2 or more surface raiders are at large. It is important that Reporting Officers be warned to be on the alert for news or indications of these vessels and for the movements of possible supply ships and tankers. (D.N.I. 1948/19).

2 cruisers and 5 destroyers bearing 270° 5 miles steering 360° my position 55:20 N., 5:35 E. Aircraft report. (Aircraft 220 Duty M. 2000/19) (C. in C. Rosyth 2036/19).

At 2242/19 a small vessel at 54:38 N., 0:55 W. showing faint white light. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 0105/20).

Zuider Zee — At 2310/19 about 20 vessels at anchor in 52:30 N., 5:47 E. (THI 0028/21).

Ameland — At 2259/19, 5' N. of Ameland, 5 or 6 vessels of destroyer size steaming West mf at fast speed. (THI. 0028/21).

At 2234/19 in 54:58 N., 7:20 E. a convoy of 8 medium-sized ships steering South at fast speed. (THI.0028/21).

Shipping

Convoy HX.59 — Route. (Capt. Halifax 1330/19 to Adty.)

Convoy MT.14 — Sailed 0615/19. 20 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1529/19).

Convoy WN.1 — Arrived 0930/19 (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0931/19).

Convoy HX.55 — Arrived 0724/19. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0731/19).

Miscellaneous

FIJI, ILLUSTRIOUS — To be taken in hand at Clydebank for docking and examination of defective machinery. (D.O.D.(H) 0026/19).

War Diary

19.7.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Weather

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	North. Light variable.	Moderate, local fog.	Improving.
	South. S.W. moderate.	Good.	Similar.
Channel	S.Wly. moderate.	Good.	Similar.
W. Approaches	W.S.Wly. "	Good.	Wind backing S. and W. moderate.
Horns Reef	S.W. moderate.	Moderate, local fog.	Visibility becoming good.
Dutch Coast	S.W. "	Good.	Similar.
S.W. Coast of Norway.	Easterly, moderate fresh in North.	Moderate in N. with fog. Good in S.	Similar.

War Diary

19.7.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General- French Shipping

Following orders are in force and supersede previous instructions for sailing French British and Foreign Chartered Shipping to French Colonial Ports.

(1) South Atlantic. Ships may not be sailed fro any French Colonial ports north of Sierra Leone nor for ports in Ivory Coast or Dahomey. Other sailings permitted but ships from adjacent stations should call at Freetown or Capetown for instruction

(2) North Atlantic and Mediterranean. Sailings are not permitted.

(3) East Indies. Sailings resumed but ships for French Somaliland must call at Aden first for information.

(4) Australia and New Zealand. Inter-station trading resumed.

(5) America and West Indies. Ships are not allowed to call at French West Indian ports.

(6) China. Normal trading resumed.

(7) General instructions for H.M. ships in South Atlantic.

(C. in C., South Atlantic, 1904/19)

North Atlantic

French Embassy

I have been informed by French Admiralty via N.A. here that Steamship ORDUNA leaves Liverpool for Lisbon today with French embassy. German Government undertakes to respect ship if navigation lights are shown. I have promised to pass on French request that this is done. (Madrid, 2031/19)

War Diary

19.7.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

CANTON ASTURIAS	To escort S.L. 40 and S.L.F.40 and then to Greenock. (C. in C., S.A. 1129/19)
Convoy C.M. 2.	Second party to sail p.m. 21/7 (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1453/19)
Convoy W.S. 1.	Left Simonstown 1445/19 escorted by CUMBERLAND. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1614/19) Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1620/19)
Italian Plane	Italian plane marked I- ATOS is leaving Natal for Europe dawn 20/7 conveying important mails and German pilot passenger. (Rio de Janeiro, 1214/19, C. in C., S.A., 1810/19)

War Diary

19.7.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

Encounter with Italian Cruisers

1st B.S. My position course and speed are at 1500/19, 154, 32° N., 29° E., 41, 285 degs., 15½ knots. (F.O.C.I. B.S., 1551/19)

A/C Force. C. in C., 1241. Maaten Bagush will be ready fortnight landing. Sidi Barrani also warned but Has no flood light and not recommended. (R.A. I.C., Alexandria, 1650/19

Your 1358/19. Striking Force arrived Maaten Bagush at 1815/ (F.O.C. 1 B.S., 1733/19, to R.A., Alexandria).

Following has been read: Z 5 pos. 35.02' N., 23.10' E., starting square search south. Please give any details cruisers' positions (Malta W/T Stn. 1625/19)

Following has been read: Z 6 searching Greek Coast 20 miles ~~eastward~~ seaward up to Zynte Yust, then returning, leaving Crete 1930. (Malta W/T Stn., 1728/19)

Ships Engaged My 1040. Ships engaged, SYDNEY, Capt. (D) 2 in HYPERION, ILEX, HAVOCK, HERO, HASTY. No details action yet, but appears to have been a very gallant affair. BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI sunk, HAVOCK picked up 250 survivors. Other cruiser escaped to southward. HAVOCK heavily bombed south of Crete sustaining slight damage. EAGLE Striking Force attacks Marsa Tobruk tonight, hoping escaped cruiser may be there. Fleet returns Alexandria tomorrow unless further enemy movements reported. (C. in C., Med., 1831/19)

HAVOCK Bombed

FZC ? No enemy sighted in area Kithera Malz, north Trere (corrupt) Request instructions. (F/Boat L 5806, 1845/19)

HERO and HASTY have joined me. (C. in C., Med., 1952/19)

Tobruk. No cruisers in Tobruk. (A/C attacked WARSPITE, 2000/19)

/ H.M.A.S. SYDNEY.....

War Diary

19.7.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Encounter with Italian Cruisers-Contd.

H.M.A.S. SYDNEY and Capt. (D) 2 with 5 destroyers became engaged with Italian cruisers at about 0800 north of west end of Crete. Situation obscure, but SYDNEY heard at 0954. R.A. (D), Mediterranean in ORION and NEPTUNE sailed at 0915. WARSPITE sails at 1100, remainder of Fleet at 1230. (C. in C., Med. 1031/19)

Cruiser Sunk

SYDNEY reports one Italian cryiser sunk. Though nearly out of ammunition SYDNEY is chasing the other. (C. in C., Med., 1040/19)

Air Attack Asked For

Enemy cruiser in position 35.04' N.; 23.30' E., steering 170° at 30 knots at 1100 appears to be making for Tobruk, pursued by SYDNEY and five destroyers who are short of ammunition. ORION and NEPTUNE are steering westward from Alexandria to intercept, approx. position 31.40' N., 28.40' E. at 1200, steering 290°. 30 knots Request bombers may attack enemy if possible as he apptoaches land. (C. in C., Med. to R.A., Alexandria, 1125/19)

DHAPLAIN survivor reports cruisers were expecting to meet large supporting force in this area this morning. (HAVOCK, 1138/19)

EAGLE

EAGLE's striking force with torpedoes is to be ready to attack Tobruk this evening, using advanced landing ground as arranged with 202 Group. R.A. Alexandria to arrange and inform EAGLE and F.O.C. 1 B.S. (C. in C., Med. 1241/19)

1st. B.S.

Presume you will now keep along coast. Give IMPERIAL and HEREWARD another rendezvous. (C. in C., Med., 1259/19)

Name of Cruiser

Have 250 survivors including 12 cot cases and 20 other wounded from Italian cruiser BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI. Am returning to Alexandria, expected time of arrival 0500. (HAVOCK, 1328/19)

/SYDNEY.....

War Diary

19.7.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Encounter with Italian Cruisers-Contd.

SYDNEY	Am returning to HAVOCK. My position 017 degs., 34° N., 25° E., 7. (SYDNEY, 1503/19)
2nd D.F.	Join HAVOCK at sunset. (SYDNEY to Capt., (D) 2. 1545/19)
Enemy Destroyer	V.3, one destroyer in position 34.46' N., 24.06' E., enemy course 140° speed 30 knots. (F/Boat N. 9029, 1530/19)
2nd D.F.	My position, course and speed are 233 degs., 34° N., 25° E., 29, 130, 28. (Capt. (D) 2, to SYDNEY, 1545/19)
EAGLE	My 1249/19. Carry out attack if arrangements satisfactorily made, Squadron returning to Dekheila. Target cruiser or other suitable target. (C. in C., Med., 1609/19, to F.O.C. i B.S., EAGLE, and R.A. I.C., Alexandria).
Flying Boat	19/7. 24. If cruisers remain on course relief before 2000 hours. (F/Boat L. 2164. 1610/19)
Enemy A/C	One aircraft shadowing, my position 34.36' N., 24.30' E., (HAVOCK, 1612/19).
SYDNEY	My position, course and speed, 320 degs., 34° N., 25° E., 32 miles, 150, 20. HAVOCK in company. Join me. (SYDNEY, to Capt. (D) 2, 1645/19)
Enemy Bombing	H.43 (refers to HAVOCK) 3 miles south Gavdi has been bombed by (?) craft - his boiler room flooded- does not require assistance (Malta W/T Station, 1540/19)

War Diary

19.7.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- General

Threat to Malta

Your 2105/18. Nothing to confirm suggestion of impending attack on Malta. Concentration of merchant vessels not considered excessive in view of large proportion of Italian merchant fleet laid up, possibly Libyan convoy is intended. Troops in Sicily for attack on Malta probably amounting to 40,000. Air Force in Sicily believed not increased during last three weeks. C.2 report at time of Italian entry into war that German parachute troops had been sent, if true, probably small number as instructors. Believed parachute volunteers called for about same time. (D.N.I., to F.O.I.C., Malta, 1430/19)

Policy.

Decisions as regards didtribution of Capital ships and aircraft carriers, reserves of ammunition, etc., in regard to your 2259/16 (1st S.L., to C. in C., Med.) (See Mediterranean Volume)

Air.

Strength

A.M. 1915/17. A.O.C. in C., Middle East, will accommodate additional squadron and will manage maintenance somehow. Hopes, however it will not be for long in view of his own commitments and expectation of reinforcements. Therefore essential to set up F.A.A. Repair Depot with necessary workshop and maintenance personnel at earliest possible date. (C. in C., Med., 1046/19. to Admty.)

Reconnaissance

Arrangements for 19/7-21/7 (C. in C., Med. 1031/19)

Balearic Isles

Admty. 2311/18 re Italian reconnaissance aircraft operating from Balearic Isles No definite information either way at present. (F.O.C., Force H, 1055/19)

Malta Raid

By 6 fighters at 1300, driven off. (F.O.I.C. Malta 2139/19)

War Diary

19.7.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

French Ship

Admty. 2025/7, and N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1047/13. While on passage to Mombasa, French BERNARDIN DE ST. PIERRE was informed by me that in view of other arrangements made mmukd need not call at Mombasa. No acknowledgement has, however, been received. If she arrives Mombasa (about 22/7) and in view of the terms of agreement in N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1703/6. propose not to requisition ship. I consider that to break faith now would adversely affect the future of Madagascar Govt., (C. in C., E.I., 0554/19) Approved not to requisition, (D.T.D., 2213/19)

C.M. 2.

Proposed to sail second party p.m. 21/7. (N.O.I.C., Durban, 1453/19) Approved. (C. in C., E.I., 18102/20)

China

River Gunboats

Impracticable to withdraw CRICKET and TERN from Shanghai. Propose they be laid up and situation reviewed at end of Typhoon season. This will leave PETEREL in full commission as S.N.O., Shanghai. (C. in C., China 06452/19)

French Ships

Your 05092/18. Ships should be seized if met at sea unless specially exempt for trade in station with French guarantee. (D.T.D. to C. in C., China, 2059/19)

War Diary

19.7.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Dutch Guiana

Dutch Colonial authorities request that VAN KINSBERGEN may be sent to Dutch Guiana in order to maintain order on Franco-Dutch frontier. Request you will issue instructions accordingly when vessel can be spared from patrol ordered in your 1251/18. Vessel will remain under your orders and should report to you when situation admits of leaving Dutch Guiana. (D.O.D., (F) 1554/19 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

German Raider

British KING JOHN, 5228 tons, from London to Vancouver, and DAVISIAN, 6433 tons, from London to Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, reported sunk about 13/7 by an armed German ship of about 9000 tons, 210 miles N.E. and 450 miles N.N.E. of Guadeloupe respectively. Patrols therefore arranged by DUNEDIN, VAN KINSBERGEN, DIOMEDE and SUMATRA in West Indies. (D.O.R., 319)

Reports from the French Island of St. Barthelmy today state that 2 life-boats had arrived there on 17/7 with 41 survivors from the British merchant ships KING JOHN and DAVISIAN said to have been sunk by enemy action 400 miles east of the island. (Associated Press, Martinique, 1728/19)

Armed German ship about 9000 tons sank British merchant ships about 13/7 approx. 20° N., 60° W., and 18° N., 54.30' W., C in C., A.W.I. has established patrols to guard the approaches to the Caribean Sea so fas as his limited nimber of cruisers admits. You may at your discretion communicate foregoing to Navy Department in confidence. (D.N.I. to N.A., Washington, 1955/19)

Convoy T.C.6.

Impossible to accommodate all personnel without using ANTONIA. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1233/19)

War Diary

19.7.1940.
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WESER

Jamaica reports WESER sailed 16/7 Punta Arenas reported for Manzanillo. Believed name changed R.N. HOPE TERAM suggesting possibility attempted confusion with British ship HOPETARN, which sailed Panama 16/7 for San Pedro. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1913/19)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DANTE
VALDARNO

Reported leaving for San Nicolas to lay up. (N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires, 1110/19)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

PRESIDENT DOUMER
FELIX ROUSSEL

Admty. 2319/16 French ship PRESIDENT DOUMER has been requisitioned at Port Said 0800/19 and French ship FELIX ROUSSEL has been requisitioned at Suez 1200/18 both without incident but French Naval Authorities are protesting vigorously on the grounds that PRESIDENT DOUMER already requisitioned by French Government and action took place in territorial waters. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1249/19)

L'AMPERE

Information of whereabouts requested. (S.O. 1., Freetown, 1715/19)

War Diary

19.7.1940.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

PEARLMOOR — British, 4581 tons, homeward bound from Freetown, torpedoed and sunk at 1630/19, position 55.23 N., 9.18 W. Several missing (Customs, Londonderry, 1910/20)

EUDOXIA — Torpedoed midnight 14/15 S.W. of Ireland is now reported sunk. (D.C.N.S.320)

Submarines Reported

1005 — Sub vicinity 55.50' N., 9° W., Norwegian ship sunk. (Scapa W/T, 1005/19) (C. in C., W.A., 1016/19). VANQUISHER and CAMELIA to attack (C. in C., W.A. 1019/19)

1630 — 55.23' N., 09.18' W., (British PEARLMOOR attacked)

Estimated dispositions:-
1 far out in Western Approaches
1 in N.W. Approaches N.W. Ireland
1 in Cape Wrath Area
1 Between Shetland and Norway, Homeward bound. (D.O.R., 320)

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Attacked

1255 — London aircraft reported seeing Swordfish drop bombs on submarines 4 miles N.E. of Valetta about 1255. Small patch of oil visible. London also dropped bombs but at same time attacked by enemy fighters who were driven away. Subsequently Swordfish reported having dropped 2 bombs of 250 lbs. within few yards of submarine. Oil patches observed. Repeated attack. Bombs falling in oil patch without exploding On departure oil patch grew to about 100 ft square. Oil black and coming up very quickly. Depth of submarine when attacked 8 fathoms. (H.Q. Malta, to Air Min., 1645/19 BERYL also attacked. Consider possibly successful (F.O.I.C., Malta 2139/19)

War Diary

20.7.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Smoke Screens to be reported

Admiralty 2006/8. Following instruction has been issued to H.M. Coast Guard in Area concerned:-
"There is possibility of enemy using large scale smoke screens produced on some part of the Continent which may arrive in S.E. coast between Lowestoft and Start Point when wind favourable, i.e. East through South to South West up to Force 3 and 4.
2. Such smoke screens may take the form of an aerial or surface screen by day or night.
3. All stations are to report through the usual channels any marked reduction of visibility or appearance of artificial clouds considered due to above cause. Possible this may be revealed by smell.
(D. of L.D. 1055/20)

Liaison with Military

Requested arrangements be made locally to inform the appropriate Military Command or Areas of the addresses, function and telephone numbers of Naval Establishments within their areas. Also desirable that Naval Authorities concerned should establish liaison with local Military Authorities. (D. of L.D. 1811/20 to C. in C's.)

Burning Petrol or Oil Fuel

Authority to local Naval Authorities to prepare plans with local Military Authorities for burning Oil Fuel or Petrol to resist Invasion. (D. of L.D. 1943/20 to C. in C's)

War Diary

20.7.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Attack without Challenge

C. in C., Nore's 2124/9.

A. There is no objection to surface forces attacking at sight merchant vessels to the eastward of East Coast Mine Barrier.

B. Whenever two or more of our warships are operating together in company or separately, -it would be dangerous to allow ships ~~to allow ships~~ to open fire on men of war without first challenging. At night or by day in thick weather, there is always the possibility of ships in company becoming detached and later on making contact being mistaken for enemy.

C. There is no objection however to C. in C., Nore on such occasions when he has one surface vessel only operating in a given area authorising attack on any craft at sight.

D. Above instructions apply also to Commands of C. in C., Portsmouth and C. in C., Western Approaches, but in view of movements of Channel convoys Commanders- in--Chief must assure that permission as under C above is only given with due regard to the safety of our own shipping.

(1st S.L. 0119/20)

F.O.C. Shetlands

Effect of this new appointment on existing Commands. (1st S.L. 0311/20)

War Diary

20.7.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

15th C.S.

Sailing delayed owing to Magnetic Mines.
(F.O.C. 15 C.S. 0559/20 to BEDOUIN)

Submarine Positions

Position of submarines and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600 21st July. CLYDE vicinity GBMF 3030 leaving p.m. on surface for Rosyth. TRIDENT vicinity ZQMF 3000 proceeding on surface to relieve CLYDE, WILK jzlz 3500, H 31 and H 34 in H one and H two H 34 leaves p.m. on surface for Lowestoft. TRUANT KZTA 3000 proce ding to Rosyth, TRITON TGVD 4000 proceeding Northwestward, TRUANT, TRITON diving by day when within 36 miles of PCSC 2934, SNAPPER TGVD 2500 proceeding on surface Northeastward, THAMES escorted by WHITE BEAR due Dundee 1900 from Northward, H 50 leaves Harwich 1500 for CPSC 5353. (V.A.S. 1704/20)

Position and movements of submarines in Area B for following 24 hours at 0600 21st July. TIGRIS vicinity KQQ G 4130. (V.A.S. 1709/20)

HUSSAR

Unfit for sea through sickness among ships company chiefly nervous complaints. Propose send to Chatham forthwith. Recommissioning required. (C. in C., Nore, 1305/20 and 1910/20)

Home Fleet

Ships at Scapa are at half an hours notice for steam. (C. in C., H.F. 2215/20)

1. GREYHOUND, GALLANT, ENCOUNTER, and HOTSPUR are to accompany ARGUS to Gibraltar and to join Force H.

2. ENCOUNTER and HOTSPUR will be required to sail from Liverpool as escort to REINA DEL PACIFICO and CLAN FERGUSON and will rendezvous with ARGUS GREYHOUND and GALLANT as arranged by C. in C., Western Approaches.

3. GREYHOUND nad GALLANT should be sailed a.m. tomorrow 21st with all convenient despatch to Clyde.

4. ENCOUNTER and HOTSPUR should be sailed a.m. tomorrow 21st with all convenient despatch to Liverpool.

(D.D.O.D. h. 2230/20)

War Diary

20.7.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation P.G. — Deferred till further notice. (C. in C., Nore, 1705/20 to BEEHIVE)

GNEISNAU — Report received that German Warship stated to be GNEISNAU sailed from Trondheim at 0900/20. B.2. (D.D.I.C. 1931/20) Patrols SAIA and SA 2 to leave Datum at 0400/21. Tracks to be extended to visibility of Norwegian Coast, souther tracks to 7° 30' E., (C. in C., Rosyth 2330/20 to C. in C., H.F.) TRIDENT to remain at 60° 9' N., 4° 20' E., TRUANT proceed to 60° 40' N., 4° E., R.A.S. 1929/20)

Iceland — One Troopship carrying about 2000 will leave Clyde for Iceland on 27th July. Request 2 destroyers as escort. Should be escorted to Clyde when unloaded. (D.C.D.H. 2239/20 to C. in C., H.F.)

E-Boats

Brest — 3 ships, probably E-boats, entering Brest Inner Harbour at 1000/20. (St. Eval 1200/20)

Air- British Air Activity.

In view of ships' difficulty in distinguishing friendly from hostil Fighters, suggest old black and white marking preferable to exising pale blue. (V.A. Dover, 1351/20 to Adty.)

Cherbourg — Bombed at 1827/20. Straddles Digue du Homet. (Chatham 2105/20)

Utsire Island — D/F station bombed at 0233/20. Seven masts collapsed and believed whole station damaged. (Donibristle; Red. 1658/20)

Skagerrak — At 1645/20, five trawlers attacked at 57° 45' N 8° 10' E. Machine gun definite hits claimed. (Donibristle 2319/20)

British A/C Colours and Marking — Details of (Air Ministry 2000/20)

/Enemy Air Activity.....

War Diary

20.7.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

One aircraft shadowing 160° Dungeness 4 miles (CODRINGTON 0611/20 to N.O.I.C. Dover)

Dover — About 9 aircraft attacked at 1330/20 Twelve Bombs. No casualties or damage reported. (V.A. Dover, 1355/20 to Adty.)

BEAGLE — Attacked by 10 Junkers at 160° Portland Bill 10 miles at 1605/20. Minor damage, no casualties. 1 Junker crashed in sea. (BEAGLE 2020/20 to C. in C., W.A.)

ACHERON — At 180° St. Catherines 10 miles ten Dive Bombers attacked. One serious casualty. (ACHERON 1610/20 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Channel Convoy BRAZEN Sunk — Heavily attacked by 30 aircraft at 1815/20 off Dover. BRAZEN hit in engine-room. PULLBOROUGH sunk. WESTOWN damaged LADY PHILOMENA slightly damaged. (V.A. Dover 1914/20 to Adty.) BRAZEN sank at 2040. WESTOWN towed into Dover. (V.A.Dover 2120/20 to Adty.) BRAZEN sank in 51° 1' 12"N 1° 17' 30"E PULBOROUGH in 51° 4' 27" N. 1° 20' 6" E. (V.A. Dover, 2337/20)

Mining

Spit Buoy — Your 2337/19. Request number and position of Mines. Were Parachutes seen? (C. in C., Nore, 0103/20 to VIMY) Two Parachutes dropped N.E. Spit Buoy 344° 12 cables and 348° 10 cables (VIMY 0155/20 to C. in C.Nore)

Tyne — Port closed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0137/20)

Milford Haven — Request Mine Sweepers and M/S Officers to clear Magnetic Mines. Several seen laid during night. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0246/20 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff) One pair LL Sweepers sailed from Swansea to Milford Haven (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 0641/20) of 4 mines seen to drop, 2 exploded by sweep and 2 spontaneously. Port will be closed from 2100/20 till 1200/21 for further sweep. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1925/20 to Adty.)

Greenock. — 2 Parachute Mines reported dropped at 0120/20 on shore N.W. of Kempock Point. Port Open. Sweeping in progress. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1025/20) Two mines now exploded by ANDELLE (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2025/20)

/Harwich.....

War Diary

20.7.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

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/Harwich.....

War Diary

20.7.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Harwich	At 1355/20 an aircraft dropped possible mine or mines at 52° 1' 30" N., 1° 50'E (GUILLEMOT 1404/20 to N.O.I.C. Harwich.)
TROUTPOOL	Badly damaged by explosion, apparently Mine, at 1330/20 at 003° Bangor Pier 18 cables. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1605/20 to Adty.) Now on Bottom and danger to navigation (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1840/20)
Cardiff	Magnetic Mine exploded at 0830/20 by BUSHWOOD at 118° Flatholm 0.6 miles. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1612/20 to Adty.)
Liverpool	Sweeping in progress today by LL's. Two Mines are being recovered. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2030/20 to Adty.)
Bristol Channel	Heavy explosion heard near Flatholm at 0100/20 (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1016/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence

Terschelling	At 0040/20, forty small craft anchored between island and mainland. (THI 0028/21)
Borkum	At 0130/20. Many white lights close to shore at Vlangeoog, and 30 to 40 stationary boats in bay south of island. (THI 0028/21)
Hook	At 0135/20. Sunk steamer, 5000 tons, one mile from coast (THI 0028/21)
Flushing	At 0001/20. 3 medium-sized Vessels alongside quay (THI 0028/21)
Boulogne	At 1440/20, free of Shipping or E-boats. Three Seaplanes in Outer Harbour. (PIU 1915/20)
Brest	At 1000/20, one large Battleship presumed CONDORCET in harbour, 3 ship anchored at W. corner of Môle. (St. Eval 1200/20)
Skagerrak	At 1645/20, five Trawlers at 57° 45'N 8° 10 E aircraft report. (Donibristle 2319/20)
Cuxhaven	At 2335/20 two large vessels, stationary. Air craft report (H.Q.B.C. 0515/22)
Jade Roads	At 2359/20, five miles N. of Wilhelmshaven, one large warship probably Cruiser proceeding South, and 12 other ships in Roads. (H.Q.B.C. 0515/22
Klaesharn	At 2327/20 one M/V 8000 tons, half mile W. of Harbour, heading W. slowly. (H.Q.B.C. 0515/22)

/Havre.....

War Diary

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

Havre	Large Vessel anchored off S.W. Outer Harbour at 0049/20, aircraft report (ACHQ Chatham 0325/20)
GNEISENAU	Reported sailed from Trondheim at 0900/20. Graded B.2. (D.D.I.C. 1931/20)

Shipping

Convoy C.W.7.	Sailed 0700/20. 22 Ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 0127/20)
Convoy F.N.25.	Arrived 0900/20 (NCSO Methil 0949/20)
Convoy F.N.27.	Sailed 0500/20 37 Ships (NCSO Thames 0717/20)
Convoy H.X.59.	Sailing Telegram (D.T.D. 1855/20) Details (D.T.D. 1548/20)
Convoy H.X.60.	Destinations (DTD 1947/20)(COAC 1101/20)
Convoy SLF.40.	Sailing Telegram (NCSO Freetown 1419/20)
Convoy OA.180.	Route (C. inC.,W.A. 1758/20)
Convoy FS.27.	Details (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1728/20)
Convoy FN.2.	28 Ships. Passed Kinnaird Head bound south at 1830/20 (C. in C., Rosyth 2110/20)
Convoy M.T.	Will leave Methil 1400/21 (C. in C., Rosyth 1820/20)
Coastal Convoys FN and FS	Revised Time Tables. (C. in C., Rosyth 1922/20 to Adty.)
Convoy OG.38	Sailing Telegram (C. in C., W.A. 1727/20)
Convoy HX.61	Route (D.T.D. 1222/20)
Convoy OA.187.	Sailed 1730/20 33 ships (NCSO Methil 1809/20)
Convoy FN.29	Will now sail 22 July (C. in C., Rosyth 1900/20
FN and FS Convoys	FS will leave Tyne at 2300, and FN will leave Southend at 0500. (C. in C., Rosyth 1732/20)
Convoy OG.39.	Route (C. in C., W.A. 1759/20)
Convoy OB.186.	Sailed 1310/20. (NCSO Liverpool 1450/20)

War Diary

20.7.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

WEATHER

	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea	Southwesterly Moderate, fresh locally.	Showers or occasional rain.	Moderate in extreme North, mainly good elsewhere.
Horns Reef / Dutch Coast	Southwesterly Moderate	Cloudy	Mainly Good.
S.W. Norway	Southwesterly Moderate to fresh.	Cloudy or overcast showers.	Moderate to Good.
Channel	Southwesterly Moderate to fresh	Cloudy or overcast showers.	Good.
Western Approaches	Southwesterly Moderate to fresh	Cloudy or overcast showers	Good.

War Diary

20.7.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Altantic

DELHI — Cancel my 2355/12. DELHI to revert to orders of C. in C., South Atlantic. (D.O.D.(F), 0006/20).

JEAN BART — Air reconn. Casablanca pm/19/7, French battleship JEAN BART, position unchanged, now boxed in with a boom laid between two ships. One submarine in floating dock. Situation of remainder similar to my 2316/8. (F.O.C.N.A., 1112/20).

Raiders — Warning of, and request for news or indications. (D.N.I., to Consuls in Spain and Portugal, etc., 1230/20). A darkened tanker approx. 7000 tons reported in position 40:38 N., 23:37 W., course 160°, at 0400Z/17. (D.C., to F.O.C.N.A. 0030/20).

South Atlantic

ASTURIAS — Cancel last sentence my 1305/15. ASTURIAS developed degaussing defects, request may be remedied at Greenock and ship sailed soon as possible for Freetown, as she is urgently required to operate with S. America Division. (C. in C., S.A., 1037/20).

CANTON — Left for convoy duty and passage to U.K. (S.O.I., Freetown, 0849/20).

STRATHMORE — Leaving Freetown 21/7. Route. (C. in C., S.A. 1749/20).

Raider — Description of German armed merchant raider reported 447 miles N.E. Barbados 10/7 and 250 miles E.N.E. Sombrero Channel 13/7. (C. in C., S.A. 2358/20).

Mediterranean

Encounter with Italian Cruisers.

My 1502/19. C. in C. and Fleet returning to harbour today. Destroyers bringing about 500 prisoners. (Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 0738/20).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Report of Action

Destroyer action started by Capt. (D)2. 4 destroyers of 2nd D.F. sighted 2 Italian cruisers steering about 040 degrees in anti Kithera Channel at 0724. Destroyers retired to North Eastwards and opened the range.

2. Meanwhile H.M.A.S. SYDNEY with HAVOCK in company who was to Northward proceeded to support of destroyers and at 0827 sighted the enemy, who concentrated their fire on her, while SYDNEY engaged the leader. The destroyers now turned back and thereupon the enemy cruisers turned 180 degrees and endeavoured to escape through anti Kithera Channel. SYDNEY scored a tactical hit or hits in machinery of BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI who soon stopped. She was finished off near Agrsa Arabuse by destroyers who fired 4 torpedoes, 2 of which hit.

3. SYDNEY chased Italian cruiser ALBERICO DA BARBIANO (see Italian Communique as to name) for 1½ hours until her ammunition was exhausted and scored some hits but these unfortunately had no effect on speed and she gradually drew out of range to hit.

4. 3 destroyers picked up 545 survivors of BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI including Captain while HASTY and HERO followed SYDNEY. On passage back to Alexandria the force was bombed by 13 aircraft and HAVOCK who had 250 prisoners on board was holed in number 2 boiler room by a very near miss. Bulkheads however stood and she was able to proceed at 20 knots.

5. I consider credit for this very spirited and successful action belongs mainly to Captain J.A. Collins R.A.N. of SYDNEY who by his resolution and dash quickly established a moral superiority over enemy. He was ably supported by Commander H.St.L.Nicholson D.2. and Commanding Officers HAVOCK, HASTY, HERO and ILEX.

6. No casualties in British ships.

(C. in C., Med., 1401/20).

Add to my 1401/20. Destroyers were also bombed while picking up survivors of BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI. (C. in C., Med., 1831/20).
A communique based on my 1401/20 has been issued to local press. (C. in C., Med., 1443/20).

Australia

Congratulations of Naval Board and R.A.N. to SYDNEY, etc. (A.C.N.B., 1701Z/20).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Italian Communique — Italian High Command communique issued noon 20/7 gives name of second cruiser as GIOVANNI DELLE BANDE NERE, not ALBERICO DA BARBIANO. (Transocean, 1130 G.M.T. 20/7).

Shipping reports, Leakage — Urge steps be taken to prevent British and neutral shipowners in London telegraphing loading and sailing instructions for ships in Greek waters en clair. Risk of leakage immense. (Legation, Athens, to Min. of Shipping, 2100/20).

Action of 9/7 — Italian Naval Attache informed U.S. Naval Attache Italian forces engaged in action in Ionian Sea were CESARE accompanied by (CAVOUR?), six 10,000-ton cruisers, six 6,000-ton cruisers and 20 destroyers. CESARE hit by 15-in. shells, base of funnel, putting six boilers out of action. She retired under smoke screen. BOLZANO also hit by 6-in. shells (Adm. Kelly, via Istanbul, to C. in C., Med., 1555/20).

French Ships — Adty. 2319/16. As reported by S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area in his 1249/19 French ships PRESIDENT DOUMER, FELIX ROUSSEL were requisitioned and French are believed to be protesting to Egyptian Govt. There remain in Canal area and Haifa the 5 ships given in S.B.N.O. Suez 2006/17. Is it the intentio: that these ships should also be requisitioned? To do so will probably cause further bad feeling with French, but there does not seem any satisfactory way of running them for local trade, and there is likely to be dissatisfaction amongst crews of non requisitioned ships who would presumably be on French rate of pay while requisitioned ships are on higher British rate. It is unlikely that more than half of crews will volunteer to serve on. (C. in C., Med., 1727/20).

Mediterranean - Air

Tobruk Raid — Six Swordfish of 813 Sqdn. attacked shipping Marsa Tobruk at 0240/20. One hit on oiler which produced heavy explosion, probably due to petrol. Two other hits probably on merchant ships. Hoped for cruiser not present. Heavy pom-pom and machine gun fire, but all aircraft got back to Sidi Barrani. Three damaged and unserviceable. Pilot and observer of one wounded, latter seriously.

Prior.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Air (Contd.)

Tobruk Raid (Contd.)

Prior to this operation one of WARSPITE's aircraft catapulted at sea carried out reconnaissance of Marsa Tobruk and subsequently reported having force-landed east of Marsa Tobruk at 2130. Search by JERVIS and later by two flying boats failed to locate, and it is regretted crew must be regarded as missing, but possible reached shore in enemy territory. (C. in C., Med., 1913/20).

Air Menace

Scale of air attack on forces engaged yesterday was again heavy. In absence of attacks on air forces and aerodromes in Dodecanese by long range bombers, unless I can have an A/A cruiser and some escort ships with good A/A armament, the hazards to Aegean convoys and cruisers which have to be used to escort them will be so great that they will not be worth running. This request made in my 2259/16 para. 6 is not covered in Adty. 1914/19. (C. in C., Med., 1943/20).

Balearic Isles

Asking if any indication that Italian reconnaissance aircraft are operating from Balearic Islands, Minorca or Majorca. (D.N.I. to N.A. Madrid, 0043/20).

East Indies

Bombing Expected

My 0016/18. Message received from B.L.O., Djibuti states that G.O.C. has (~~corrupt group~~)decided officially with British and has informed Emissary and Governor by letter. If called upon, S.N.O. Red Sea will afford all possible naval support, especially anti-aircraft, compatible with security of Red Sea convoys. Heavy bombing anticipated. (C. in C., E.I., 0754/20).

Refugees

N.O.I.C. Karachi's 0512/18. Request another ship be provided as soon as possible for evacuation of refugees from Berbera. (C. in C., E.I., 1246/20).

Raider

At 0018Z/20 bearing of German naval W/T transmission was 239° 2nd class from Penang, and would appear to have originated from a raider. (D.D.I.C., 1646/20).

War Diary

20.7.40.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

ILE DE FRANCE — Has been requisitioned at Singapore. Believed one-third of her crew about 300 may volunteer to serve under British flag. Considered mixed crew would not prove satisfactory. Question of disposal of balance of French crew.
(C. in C., China, 0713Z/20).

French Aircraft — Our X.477+ 10/7 was primarily for purpose of avoiding attacks by French aircraft in Medit. and is to be cancelled for your commands. As regards French military aircraft in the Far East policy should be to avoid action likely to deter any wishing to join British forces. Any French military aircraft over British territory or approaching British landing grounds should not be treated as hostile till they show evidence of hostility. They should be detained on landing. these instruction may be modified by you in event of a sudden deterioration of the situation.
(Air Min. 1500/20 to R.A.F. Far East).

Petrol for Japan — Very large quantities ordered for delivery by Sept. 1 from U.S. Pacific Coast and Gulf.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1807/20).

America and West Indies

Enemy Raider — British ship DAVISIAN sunk 1430 Q 10/7 and British Ship KING JOHN sunk 1150 Q 13/7 in position 447 miles N.E. of Barbados and 250 miles E.N.E. Sombrero Channel respectively by German armed merchant raider. Two boats, one with 25 and one with 16 men still missing, last seen approximately 200 miles E.N.E. Sombrero.

Raider approx. 9,000 tons. (description)
Name NARVIK SUIRIGE on side on white.
Resembles German ship 637 C.A.F.O. 422/40.

Armament 1 5.9 inch gun on poop and 1 on fore-castle both concealed. 1 3.9 each side by each mast also concealed. Several pom-poms and numerous small machine guns. 4 mines and 8 or 9 objects resembling magnetic mines sighted. Ship fitted with mine rails and traps. KING JOHN made S.O.S. in form RR RR but it is not known if aerial was shot down first.

War Diary

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Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Enemy Raider (Contd.)

British ship DAVISIAN aerial shot down at once. NARVIK always approached from port side and opened fire with shrapnel at aerial.

British ship BRITISH PETROL also sunk in approx. same position as DAVISIAN on 14th June. Chief Steward killed remainder crew prisoners. (DIOMEDE, 1159/20).

Survivors

Names of crews landed by DIOMEDE. (Brookes, St.Kitts 1900/20).

HX.61

Position and junction. (C.O.A.C., Halifax, 1608/20).

Raiders

Following from Canadian S.O.(I) Esquimalt graded A.1 begins. 6 German raiders disguised as Merchantmen are on high sea speed 25 knots; armaments 2 heavy guns forward Aft some A.A. guns Vessels are equipped for minelaying. Ends. Am endeavouring to check source of information. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1746/20).

Patrols

My 1251/18. Patrols extended, DUNEDIN up to 600. miles 40 degrees from Trinidad, DIOMEDE up to 600 miles 45 degrees from Sombrero, SUMATRA up to 600 miles 20 degrees from Monaco. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1831/20).

New Zealand

Evacuees

Offering to place AWATEA at disposal of H.M.G. in U.K. for evacuees ex-Hong Kong from Manila to Australia. (Govt., New Zealand, no T.O.O.,/20).

War Diary

20.7.40.
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

NORBURG — Arrived Batum 18/7. (I.C., 0518/40).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ARABIA — At Assab. Endeavours being made to obtain neutral ship to transfer cargo, including ammunition, believed to be of German origin, to Persian Gulf. (I.C., 0518/40).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

PRESIDENT DOUMER)
FELIX ROUSSEL) — Requisitioned, Suez Canal area. (see Mediterranean).

War Diary

20.7.40.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

TROUTPOOL	At 1330/20, TROUTPOOL, British, 4886 tons, mined off Bangor, Belfast Lough. Reported resting on the bottom in shallow water. Some of crew of 39 injured by explosion. (DOR 321).
CATHERINE	Panamanian attacked by submarine on 24/6, is reported sunk. (DOR 321).
FRANGOULA B. GOULANDRIS,	torpedoed off Irish Coast on 4/7, is reported sunk (DOR 321)

Submarines Reported

1340	By aircraft on surface in 61:14 N., 2:35 E. Stationary when sighted, then dived course 180°. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1624/20). Submarines on patrol advised. (D.C., 1746/20).
1642	O.F. unidentified enemy unit, probably U-boat, probable position between 61° and 62° N. (D.D.I.C. 1726/20). It is thought this is the U-boat that was in about 59:20 N., 7:20 W. at 1348/19 and is homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1822/20).
2209	About 60:0 N., e:0 E., very indefinite position, 86° Sumburgh Head 130'. (I.C., 0518/40).
2229	Approx. 51:50 N., 12:30 W., very indefinite position, 270° Valencia 80'. (I.C., 0518/40).

Estimated dispositions

Possibly 1 off Portugal moving North.
1 in Western Approaches.
1 in about 55:0 N., 11:0 W. at 0028/20 probably outward bound.
1 in about 59:20 N., 7:20 W. at 1348/19 destination unknown.
1 in middle of North Sea homeward bound. (D.D.I.C., 1249/20).

War Diary

20.7.40.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked

2043 — Aircraft reports bombing submarine in position 59:54 N., 3:0 E., at 2043/20, course 118 degrees. No hits. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2332/20). Sighted on surface, about 5 miles. Fully submerged when aircraft carried out attack, dropping 3 250-lb. A/S bombs. (Donibristle, 2348/20)

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported

Anonymous information 2 German submarines seen Ayamonte. Consul, Villa Real, De Santo Antonio, asked to report. (N.A., Madrid, 1959/20).

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Colour of Light-Houses — Request consideration to repainting Light Houses and buildings a neutral colour in place of present white believed to assist enemy submarines and aircraft. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1159/21 to Adty.)

Gaitrip and Ward Hill C.H.L. Stations — Request early erection to assist detection of enemy aircraft. (F.O. Orkney 1304/21 to Adty.) Fully concur, and request steps without delay (C. in C., H.F. 1618/21 to Adty.)

Crail — Your 1942/20. In view of shortage of A/A Artillery suggest you consider defence from Adty. resources (Air Ministry 1750/21).

Orkneys — Request one Battalion Infantry and one M/G. Company be sent as minimum additional reserve for existing troops in Orkneys and Shetlands. (F.O.C.Orkneys 1923/21 to Adty.)

Shetlands — Admiral of Fleet Lord Cork assumed command of Shetlands am/21. (F.O.C. Shetlands 2139/21 to Adty.)

Burning Petrol for Defence — Trials on Loch Fyne proposed and 60 tons fishing vessel being fitted out. Consult with Army, R.A.F., and Civil authorities. (D. of L.D. 2237/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Policy

Channel Convoy Escorts — Suggest destroyers on this duty be replaced by trawlers; and that 1st D.F. be ordinarily based at Portsmouth using Dover as advanced base for sub-division. (V.A. Dover, 1253/21 to Adty.)

Consider V and W class destroyers specially unsuitable as escorts for these convoys, owing to their inadequate A/A armament. Request consider allocating "HUNT" class destroyers as they become available. (C. in C., Nore 1530/21 to Adty.)

War Diary

4.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

NARVIK "

Skjel Fiord, Trawlers — Trawlers CAPE PASSARO, SAINT KENAN, SAINT LONAN of 15th A/S S.E., ANGLE of 16th A/S S.F., arrived Skjel Fiord. After fuelling intend send 15th A/S S.F. to water at Lodingon and then reinforce Ofot Bogen at full speed. (PENELOPE, 2141/4).

Bardufoss Aerodrome — From Wing Com. Atcherly. Bardufoss now covered 3 feet snow. Will signal as soon as estimate can be made of time to put aerodrome serviceable. Suitable for Gladiators but for Hurricanes only with great care. (F.O., Narvik, 1005/3).

Stores, Mails — ROYAL ULSTERMAN to discharge stores, mails, personnel, etc., for Narvik area into GRAFTON at Mo. (F.O., Narvik, 1923/3).

I.S.T.D.C. Pier — Your 1947/1. Work is to be given first Priority. (Alterations to pier, required for Vaagø Fiord). (D. of L.D., to A.S., Portsmouth 1928/4).

AANDALSNES, NAMSOS, (Personnel from).

Troops on passage — Details of troops in transports French ships EL DJEZAIR and EL KANTARA (C.S. 1, Glasgow, 2058/4).

Numbers — Troops evacuated from Molde and Aandalsnes area in LANCASTRIA, SOBIESKI and BATORY - numbers. (C. in C., H.F., 0031/4).

Glasgow Arrivals — Details and arrangements for troops arriving at Glasgow. (D. of S.T. to F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 2058/4).

War Diary

21.7.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

HUSSAR — Your 1910/20 to proceed Chatham and re-commission. (D.M.S. 0027/21 to C. in C., Nore).

Forces D and E. — Force D keep steam at one hours notice. Force E keep steam at 2½ hours notice. (C. in C. H.F. 1350/21).

Position of submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 22nd July. Area A Clyde vicinity Q S T A 5230 for Dundee and TRUANT X Z S C 0050 for Rosyth proceed on surface except when within 36 miles of P C S C 2934 TRIDENT vicinity Z Q M F 3000 proceeding on surface to Statlandet NARWHAL leaves Immingham 1500 proceeding on surface through N L G R 0700 N L G R 3648 R Q W T 1600 thence north eastwards TRITON X Z S C 2006 proceeding on surface to Q Z M F 4030 SNAPPER vicinity P C M F 5024 WILK south of C 2 leaving pm for Rosyth THAMES leaves Dundee 1000 on surface to J Z U B 3030 H 31 in H one and two H 50 C P S C 5353 H 34 L S T A 4018 submerged by day proceeding Lowestoft H.28 leaves Harwich pm on surface to relieve H 31; (V.A.S. 1717/21).

Position of Submarines and movement for following 24 hours at 0600 22nd July. Area B Tigris vicinity K Q Q G 4130. CACHALOT leaves Plymouth pm escorted for Clyde. (V.A.S. 1718/21).

TRIDENT — Proceed to patrol about 20 miles off Statlindet (V.A.S. 1039/21).

Air

British Air Activity

GNEISENAU — Details of Aircraft Patrols flown to intercept (C. in C., Rosyth, 0002/21 to C. in C., H.F.) (C. in C., Rosyth, 1020/22).

At 0555/21 at 58:10 N., 6:30 E. Aircraft bombed a 5000 tons M/V Near miss. (Donibristle 0955/21).

At 0615/21, at 58:1 N., 6:59 E., Aircraft attacked one M/V of 1500 tons with bombs and M/G. Machine gun hits on bridge and funnel. (Donibristle, 1025/21).

Have attacked enemy with bombs. No hits. Position 57:37 N., 6:42 E. course 085° speed 10 knots. (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 1205/21).

War Diary

4.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

NARVIK

GROM	Sunk (see Air).
Allied Aircraft	Directions when approaching Narvik (F.O., Narvik, 1149/4).
Petrol, etc., for Aircraft	To arrive Narvik 11/5 and 12/5. Carriers will not be required to sail before 11/5. (V.C.N.S. to F.O., Narvik, 1919/4).
A.A. Defences	Your 2125/3. Destination of all convoys is at your discretion. ARK ROYAL and additional A.A. ships should reach you on Monday and situation as regards A.A. defence should then improve. Youn are no doubt taking steps to keep as many transports and supply ships out of the danger area for next 3 days. (D.C.D.(H). 1926/4 to F.O. Narvik.).
Landing Grounds	Adty 2208/2. Reconnaissance of Bardufoss and second promising site found at Skaanland shows neither of these landing grounds can be prepared by 12/5 on account of thaw and inadequate resources to clear snow and make extensions. Under adverse circumstances possible that neither of these aerodromes will be ready before mid-June. As enemy appears to be relying on float planes for operations Narvik area considered fighters on floats would be an adequate counter. Strongly urged F.A.A. or French float planes should be employed here at once to cover period until aerodrome can be suitably prepared. (F.O. Narvik, 2329/4).
Civil Supplies	Desired shortly to introduce regular supplies for civil population of Northern Norway. Intended that ships should be included in N.S. Convoys from Clyde for onward routing by F.O., Narvik to northern ports returning to base for homeward convoy. (D.T.D., 1949/4).

HOME COMMANDS

Air (Contd.)

British Air Activity (Contd.)

Railway at Dale — 9 Skuas will leave Sumburgh at 0130/22 to attack this Railway in 60:35 N. 5:45 E. (F.O.C. Orkneys 1845/21). 9 Skuas left for Sumburgh (Hatston 2235/21 to F.O.C. Orkneys).

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy DRAGA — Attacked by aircraft at 58:13 N., 1:52 W. (HESPERUS 1208/21). Aircraft friendly (HESPERUS 1240/21).

Convoy PEEWIT — Being attacked by aircraft (SCIMITAR 1529/21). One big tanker steering gear disabled returning to Portsmouth. Another tanker on fire, crew standing by in boats. Have survivors and wounded of S.S. TERLINGS. Position 030:50 N., 2:28 W. (SCIMITAR, 1628/21).

Aircraft attacking Convoy PEEWIT at 50:22 N., 2:29 W. (SCIMITAR 1927/21). Fighters have left (Portsmouth, W/T 1952/21).

KOLLSKEGG — Norwegian KOLLSKEGG badly on fire and abandoned at 206° Needles 12 miles. HOTSPUR and ENCOUNTER standing by. No sign of survivors (HOTSPUR 1855/21 to C. in C., Portsmouth). Crew of 36 landed at Portland. (D.S. 321).

MINA BOATHEM — Norwegian tanker, 6123 tons, damaged at Spithead. No casualties. (D.S. 321).

Mining

Fishguard — Parachute Mines dropped last night. Fishguard closed. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0816/21 to Adty.). 2 mines dropped, 1 exploded spontaneously 10 hours later. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1911/21 to Adty.)

War Diary

4.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report. (contd.)

Enemy Air Activity

Very little activity during the day. Enemy aircraft continued their overnight operations off S. and S.E. Coast between 0400 and 0600, several reports being received of aircraft off the coast between Yarmouth and Beachy Head, and one report from 12' E.N.E. of entrance to R. Tees.

Two meteorological flights were carried out during the day, one in southern half of North Sea, other over the northern North Sea to a latitude of 61° N.

It is believed that between 2056 and 2118/4 enemy aircraft circling low between Fair Island and the Orkneys. Mine-laying is suspected.

General

It has been reported that the Norwegian submarine B.6 may be on passage to England.

The following ports are closed - Tees, Hartlepool, Blyth and Middlesbrough. Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne are open to demagnetised ships.

RAMILLIES and SUFFREN, with the second Australian and New Zealand Convoy, left Colombo pm/4 for Aden.

Movements

CARLISLE — Numbers returning in, chiefly ex BITTERN. (C.S.1, 2131/4).

VERDUN — French, sailed for Brest with Rear-Admiral Moreau. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1355/4).

Submarines — Positions 0600/5 (D.C., 2237/4)(V.A.S. 1744/4)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Milford Haven Port is open (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1301/21). Port will be closed from sunset tonight till 0900/22. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1501/21). 2 of 4 mines dropped last night have been exploded, making 6 exploded out of 10 dropped in last 2 nights. Remaining 4 mines have been marked. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1911/21 to Adty.)

Aultbea Report area considered clear (C. in C., H.F. 1803/21 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea). Channel clear through positions B,C and D. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1831/21). BURLINGTON exploded M mine today at 046° Ruda Nan Sasan Triangle 9.8 cables. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1547/21 to F.O.C. Orkney).

Spit Buoy 1 red mine detonated 356° N.E. Spit Buoy 12 cables. (C. in C., Nore, 1815/21 to Adty.)

Plymouth During night 20/21, 2 magnetic mines dropped outside Western Entrance of which I has been destroyed and two N.W. of Shagstone. (C. in C. W.A. 2009/22 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Lister At 0615/21 one M/V 1500 tons at 58:1 N. 6:59 E., course 070°, speed 10 knots. 7 to 10 M/Vs anchored in Bay.

At 0645/21 at 57:45 N., 5:45 E., 5 sloops escorting 10,000 ton Oil Tanker. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 1025/21).

One enemy M/V, possibly escorted, reported on fire in 57:15 N. 7:27 E. at 1205/21. Investigate. (R.A.S. 1546/21 to WILK) Cancel my 1546/21. (R.A.S. 1734/21 to WILK).

At S 64° W. Beachy Head 23 miles heading S 60° E. failing to give Recognition Signal. Report from Trawler DANEMAN. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0340/21 to SALADIN).

4 destroyers, 1 M/V, 1 aircraft 090° 5 miles course 170, 15 knots. My position 57:58 N., 5:30 E. at 06 0612/21. (Aircraft 224 Sqdn. 0620/21 and 0625/21).

At 58:10 N., 6:30 E. two M/Vs, 5000 and 4000 tons, steering N. coastwise speed 10 knots at 0555/21. Aircraft report (Donibristle, 0955/21).

5.5.1940.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

North Atlantic.

RUDOLF ALBRECHT. Tanker, expected to sail shortly from St. Miguel, Azores (I.C., 0442/40)

America and West Indies.

ESTE
HENRY HORN — Still under embargo at Curacao. HENRY HORN received 50 tons of Diesel oil and 50 tons of gas oil on 29/4. (S.O.I. Kingston 1128/5)

China.

FRIEDERUN. — At Menado, Celebes Islands, has been reattached at the instance of a British firm.

War Diary

21.7.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

5 Naval Sloops and 1 10,000 ton unladen transport, course 150, speed 15 knots at 57:45 N., 5:45 E. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn. 0711/21). Position 57:28 N. 7:54 E. Course 090° speed 15 knots. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn. 1405/21).

At 0612/21 in XZUB. 0030, 2 M/Vs course 045° speed 6 knots, about 1000 tons each. Aircraft report. (Donibristle, 0945/21).

At 0830/21 one M/V 700 tons at 55:57 N., 7:53 W. Flag not recognised. Registered E.B. THORSHAVN. Aircraft report. (C. in C., W.A. 1126/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

BREMEN)
EUROPA) Photographic reconnaissance at Hamburg today shows BREMEN and EUROPA being camouflaged and apparently altering upperworks. (O.I.C. 1855/21).

Unidentified Unit — At 2132/21 in 63:30 N., 6:0 E. D/F report. Unreliable fix. Probably Auxiliary or Minor Warship. (D.D.I.C. 2218/21).

At 2145/21 a large M/V burning at 50:21 N., 1:18 W.; and at 50:24 N., 1:58 W. at 2156/21 a small vessel, apparently M/S, steering 180° at 6 knots. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0219/22).

At 2303/21 at 50:13 N., 1:12 W. a small vessel steering 180° at 30 knots and burning a searchlight. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0219/22).

At 2347/21 at 50:12 N., 2:28 W. two stationary vessels. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0219/22).

At 2250/21 in 53:44 N., 4:32 E. Seven unknown ships, course 320°. Aircraft report. (D.C. 0039/22 to submarines).

War Diary

21.7.1940.
Sunday

NORE COMMAND

Shipping

Convoy FS 27	Sailed (N.O.I.C. Tyne 0428/21)
Convoy MT	Will leave Methil 0930/22 (C. in C., Rosyth 1528/21)
Convoy SLF 38	Arrived 1530/21 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1543/21)
Convoy SLF 40	Amended Sailing Telegram (D.T.D. 1341/21)
Convoy OA 188	Leaves Methil 0630/22 (C. in C., Rosyth 1311/21)
Convoy OB 187	Sailed 1343/21. 20 ships (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1346/21) Details Liverpool 1120/21)
Convoy FN 27	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Humber 1120/21)
Convoy FN 28	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Thames 1022/21)
Thames Search Station	Adty. 0024/22 June. Propose to transfer this Station to Sheerness. (A.C.N.S.T. 2239/21 to -C. in C., Nore)

0500 B.S.T.

WEATHER

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
All Areas	W. to S.W. Moderate or fresh. Strong locally.	Good or very good.	Similar

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

KING SOL — H.M. Trawler Grounded in Belfast Lough (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0342/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

War Diary

21.7.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

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One enemy M.V., possibly escorted, reported on fire in 57:15 N., 7:1

War Diary

21.7.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

Enemy Raiders

To ensure rounding up of raiders, essentid that they are reported by W/T whatever the cost. Enemy is aware of this and his first object is to get close enough to shoot away the wireless aerial. It is of utmost importance that a W/T report is made before he can get into a position to do this. The risk of making false reports must be accepted. Any ship which appears to be attempting to close should at once be regarded with suspicion and a report made. This can always be cancelled afterwards if the suspicion is unfounded. (A.C.N.S. (T) (983) To British Merchant Ships, All Areas)

North Atlantic

Morocco French LE RHIN

My 1752/16. Suggestion from Peru re R.F.A. LE RHIN, to allay curiosity evinced by her agents Tangier and therefore French Authorities at Casablanca. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1032/21)

Gibraltar Evacuation of Base Staff

Re plans for evacuation of base staff, 200 Group R.A.F., etc., in the event of Spain becoming hostile or occupied by the enemy and Gibraltar becoming untenable for merchant shipping and contraband control (F.O.C.N.A., 1718/21)

/South Atlantic.....

SECRET

WAR DIARY. 4.5.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Mining.

ORZEL Report — Your 1843/2. 9 floating mines sighted in same position for 3 days so presumed moored. Run approx. line 2 miles from coast between 58°33' N., and 58°45' N. Jaederens light buoy appears removed, small whistle buoy only remaining. (ORZEL, 0003/4 to R.A.S.)

Channel Ports. — Admiral Nord states he is stopping all traffic whether ships are demagnetised or not both in and out of Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne, until he has been able to carry out further sweeps to-day. (V.A. Dover, 0106/4.)

New Magnetic Mines. — Germans believed to have invented new type of magnetic mine which nullifies degaussing process. (Press Association report).

A/C Mines. — A/C mining is suspected in an area 3 miles radius from position 189° Fair Island 19 miles (I.C., 0441/40) (see Air).

Enemy Intelligence.

Trondheim Area. — Notes on Lights, U-boats, controlled minefields etc. Surface force believed to consist of captured Norwegian T.B. LAKS and possibly one German gunnery training vessel BRUMMER class and one damaged destroyer (C. in C. H.F. 0127/4, to CLYDE). Additional details (1740/4).

Horns Reef. — 5 vessels reported in line ahead in position 120 miles W. of Horns Reef light vessel at 0120/4, no course given. (I.C., 0440/40.)

Minesweepers — 5 M. Class German minesweepers have been sweeping up coast and in entrance to Stavanger to-day. Thought they have swept or sunk by gunfire mines reported in my 0001/4 (ORZEL, 2200/4).

Shipping

Ports Reopened. — Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne now open to demagnetised ships. (V.A.Dover 1201/4)

Humber/

War Diary

21.7.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Gold Coast	Schmitte, Commanding French Troops Ivory Coast, asks for return of troops from Ivory Coast now in Gold Coast. Failing our agreement asks if his emissary may visit French troops to ask if any wish to return voluntarily. Admiral Laborde appointed to supreme command in Dakar. French Navy becoming more and more anti-British. Suggested reply to Schmitt (Governor, Gold Coast, no T.O.O/21) Received from F.O. at 0830/21)
CUMBERLAND	To be sailed for Freetown, and to locate possible enemy raiders or supply ships in unfrequented areas. (C. in C., S.A. 1612/21) My 1612 cancelled and instructions amended. (C. in C., 1935/21)
DORSETSHIRE DELHI	To patrol certain areas and arrive Freetown 30/7 and 28/7 respectively. (C. in C., S.A. 1726/21) Merchant ships likely to be met at sea. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1947/21)
Italian Consul	N.A. Rio de Janeiro reports Italian Consul at Belle Horizonte travelling Portuguese COLONIAL leaving Pernambuco 21/7 for Portugal. Suggest interception. (C. in C., S.A. 1802/21)
A.M.C's	Admty., 1127/3. Excluding ASTURIAS, required for duty off E. Coast South America. 9 A.M.C's are available for escort duties. Boiler cleaning after each round trip not possible unless at least one additional A.M.C. provided for escort. (C. in C., S.A. 1821/21)
Convoy C.M.2.	Sailing Telegram (N.O.I.C. Durban 1737/21)
DRAGON Duala	Admiral Platon returned here tonight. Whole place upset by this visit and deeply suspicious. Yesterday I protested in writing to Tobregne of secret arrival of these agents from enemy occupied port (Brest) Governor returning tomorrow week in time for conference at which think her must indicate his true position. Platon's trip objectionable and causing indignation. (DRAGON, 2110/21 to C. in C., S.A.)

War Diary

4.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air. (contd.)

Enemy Air Activity

Very little activity reported during the day, but intensive activity (probably minelaying) during the night of 3-4/5. The first phase took place between 2116/3 and 0104/4 in the Downs and Straits of Dover; the second between 0302 and 0338 from 50 miles east of Yarmouth to the Straits of Dover Enemy aircraft were again reported between 0416 and 0614, one travelling between 50 miles E. of Yarmouth and 45 miles South of Beachy Head, and another crossing and recrossing the coast in the regions of Cromer and Lowestoft respectively.

Two meteorological flights took place over the North Sea during the forenoon, one covering the southern North Sea (possibly one of the last two aircraft mentioned above), the other covering the northern North Sea as far as 61° N.

Enemy naval aircraft were probably patrolling off the Norwegian coast during the morning, and there were further reports of the usual troop carrying activity (controlled by Uetersen and Stade); flights between Hamburg, Neumunster and Oslo were reported.

During the afternoon enemy aircraft were engaged in reconnaissance in the northern North Sea and up the Norwegian coast. One aircraft reported sighting nothing in the region of Mosjoen, and another reported sighting nothing in approx. position 62:12 N., 0:25 E. (H.Q. Coastal Command, 1758/4).

Portsmouth

Enemy air attack is imminent at Portsmouth (Portsmouth W/T, 0521/4).

Narvik GROM sunk

During air attack this morning off Narvik. Polish destroyer GROM sunk. (F.O. Narvik, 0905/4). Was bombed from a height of 15,000 feet.

It is believed that a torpedo was detonated and the ship sank in 5 minutes. One officer and 65 ratings missing. 151 survivors, including 11 seriously wounded. British ratings and the liaison officer were saved (D.C.N.S.).

War Diary

21.7.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operation Hurry

Ref. operation with ARGUS now proceeding (Operation Hurry) If situation admits intend detaching ARK ROYAL and HOOD at dusk evening before final approval to carry out dawn air attack on Cagliari Aerodrome simultaneously with flying off Hurricanes from ARGUS. Object to reduce subsequent scale of enemy air attacks and create diversion. Intend also planting "cucumbers" recklessly at entrance Cagliari Harbour. This should not interfere with fighter protection for ARGUS. (F.O.C. Force H 1009/21)

Exercises

Your 1401/14. If it is your intention to take part of Force H to sea during week commencing 22/7 Adty. should be advised as it may be desired to combine any such exercises with the interception of some important ships proceeding to Spanish ports. (1st S.L., 1405/21 to V.A. Force H.)

Your 1405/21. Insufficient destroyers are available for battleships. Intend ARK ROYAL ENTERPRISE and 3 destroyers carry out exercises to westward on 23/7 and 24/7. (F.O. Force H., 1009/21)

Operations

Operations intended. Convoys, etc., Ships involved, NUBIAN, MOHAWK, LIVERPOOL, CAPETOWN and destroyers. (C. in C., Med., 1455/21)

General

PHOENIX Overdue

Submarine PHOENIX now 4 days overdue and must be considered lost. Was patrolling off Sicilian coast and last heard of at 2350/14. (C. in C., Med. 0943/21)

Malta, Morale.

Beneficial effect of British success on morale. Request to be able to release locally information as soon as B.B.C. and preferably some time before. (V.A. Malta, 1135/21)

/Flagship.....

War Diary

4.5.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

British Aircraft

Recognition Markings

Following signal sent to all R.A.F. Commands at Home and overseas begins X.485. 1/5/40 following recognition markings to be painted on all aircraft earliest possible moment. Fuselage roundels to be encircled with yellow strip of same width as existing blue circle. Vertical stripe of red white and blue of same width to be painted on fins repeat fins. Blue to be nearest rudder but clear of hinge. Ends. This applies to Fleet Air Arm aircraft. (Hd. of Air Branch, 2159/4).

British Air Activity

Attacks on Flak Ships

Ref. N.L.D. 4/5 ASD/210 11/4. Further to Coastal Command Tactical Instruction No.7 photographs show that certain ships which may be operating as flak-ships and patrol vessels are equipped with circular gun platforms fore and aft. These platforms show up clearly and in themselves are sufficient to show that the vessel forms part of an enemy fleet. Attacks on any small vessels equipped with these circular gun platforms seen in the Heligoland Bight anywhere south east of the line joining Westerland (Sylt) to Borkum would be justified even though it did not open fire provided it started to take avoiding action or to fire identification signals. Captains of aircraft would be justified in attacking such ships under the conditions stated unless they carried neutral markings. (H.Q., C.C., 1632/4).

War Diary

21.7.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- General, Contd.

Flagship	R.A. 1. B.S. to hoist his flag in MALAYA permanently on 23/7 (C. in C., Med.,1223/21)
Ammunition Reserves	Reply to Admty. 1914/19 (C. in C., Med., 1245/21) (see Mediterranean Volume)
Tobruk	Air reconnaissance 20/7 reported 5 submarines in harbour (I.C. 0619/40)
Convoy	LIVERPOOL, CAPETOWN and 4 destroyers left Port Said a.m./21 as escort for convoy to the Aegean (D.O.R. 322)
Patrol Ship	HUBLAN and MOHAWK left Alexandria at 1400/21 to intercept a Greek M.V. carrying petrol from Corinth to Dodecanese. (D.O.R. 322)

AIR

Balearic Islands	Admty. 0043/20. No truth in report that Italian reconnaissance aircraft are operating from Majorca. Ala Littoria service, however, between Rome-Palma continues. (Palma, Mallorca, 1110/21)
Malta Raids	Three raids to date- first 0300, several bombs dropped and Hal Far machine gunned, damage very slight. Second at 1000 by three bombers and 16 fighters. Third at 1050 by three bombers and six fighters - one bomber shot down. One Swordfish sent to look for bomber failed to return. London flying boats also searching, attacked by two fighters at 1500 and shot one down. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 2101/21)

War Diary

4.5.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (contd.)

Norway - Intelligence

Information received from Norwegian crew of HE.115 re Lt. Comdrs. G. Villiers and H. Stoddart of British Consulate, Bergen, and their families, also 3 Norwegian Captains, Ulstrup, Milbye and Hauze who have lost their ships. (H.Q., C.C., 2300/4) (C. in C., Rosyth, 1307/4).

Comdr. Herve, Royal Norwegian Navy and Capt. Motzfeldo, Norwegian Air Force, to sail in CHOBRY and report CLAVER HOUSE p.m. 6/5. (D.O.D.(H) 1905/4).

Comdr. Hauze, R.N.N., has arrived at Lerwick in a fishing vessel and is being flown to Invergordon today. (O.C. 0039/4).

Comdr. Hauze and Lieut. Hansen arriving London 0745/5. (R.A., Invergordon, 1437/4).

B.6 Submarine — Norwegian submarine B.6 may be on passage from Sogne Fiord to an east coast port and may attempt to identify herself to a British warship. (H.Q., C.C., to 18 Group, 1625/4).

Norwegian Ministers — Norwegian Foreign Minister and Minister for Defence arriving Euston 0642 tomorrow. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 2050/4).

War Diary

21.7.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Ships for Mediterranean.

Lack of ships capable of dealing with enemy air attack in Eastern Mediterranean. Suggesting transfer of CARLISLE and one or two convoy sloops to Mediterranean. Request your remarks (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., E.I. 0122/21)

French Armistice

My 0754/20. S.N.O. Red Sea 20/7 states new armistice terms produced and Governor reported to have accepted but attitude of G.O.C. -unknown. G. O. C. Middle East reports conditions of armistice not known. (C. in C., E.I., 0532/21 to Adty.)

Enemy Transmission

D.F. position 0048/20. Penang and Awarua 23 11 (Corrupt group) German noblis unit. 005 degs. 30' South, 083 degs 00' East. (C.O.I.C., Far East, Singapore, 1201?/21)

HOBART Bombed

At 1325?/21 when in position 014° 25' North 041° 25' East H.M.A.S. HOBART was attacked by two S 81 Italian aircraft. First attack two bombs dropped both missed. Aircraft driven off. Second attack by single aircraft one bomb dropped and missed, aircraft continued to shadow. H.M.A.S.HOBART reports bombs very large probably 1000 pounds. (C. in C., E.I. 0756/22)

China

Convoy U.S.A.

Asking if EMPRESS OF JAPAN can arrive Sydney a few days before 23/8 and whether refugees could still be conveyed. Her place in conveyance of New Zealand troops will probably be taken by MAURETANIA (D. of S.T. to Cdre. Hong Kong 1941/21)

War Diary

4.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Allied Submarines (Contd.)

Minelaying Programme — Minelaying programme proposed for NARWHAL, SEAL and PORPOISE. (V.A.S., 1859/4). Cancelled (0406/5).

TRIDENT — Patrol report 25/4 to 2/5. (S.2, 1145/4). Refers to attack and destruction of German merchant ship at 0926/2 in Langenuess. Ship beached herself on Scorpa Island in Koss Fiord. Finished off with torpedo.

TRITON — Patrol report 26/4 to 3/5. (TRITON, 0011/4)

Convoys, Norway.

F.P.3 — Your 1832/3. F.P.3 expects arrive R.V. 2000 with escort of ECHO as S.O., /with C. in C., Norwegian Navy and Staff on board) WARWICK, WHIRLWIND, AMAZON, BRAZEN, French cruiser EPERVIER. Request instructions for escort. (ECHO to F.O. Narvik, 0358/4). Reply, (F.O., Narvik, 1003/4).

N.P.2, N.S.2,) N.P.3, N.S.3,) — Arrangements for (D. of P. 1804/4 to F.O. Narvik).

MASHOBRA — Arrangements to send R.M.F.U. and MNBDO pier in. (Hd. of M., to F.O., Narvik, 1856/4, amended 2335/4).

HKI — Your 2125/3. Destination of H.K.I. and all other convoys is at your discretion. (D.O.D.(H) 1926/4 to F.O. Narvik).

JANUARY — Sailed with HKl and will not join N.S.2 (F.O.C.O.S., 1532/4).

War Diary

21.7.1943.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

American & West Indies

Convoy T.C.6. — ANTONIA, slowest ship, precludes arrival in daylight 31/7, except in most favourable weather and with element of risk. Intend to work to 1/8 as date of arrival. (R.A. 3 B.S., 1114/21)

Raider Action — Summary of report of Chief Officer DAVIDIAN of sinking of ship by German raider NARVIK on 10/7. (Paterson, Puerto Plata, 1245/21)
Details from survivors (do., 1350/21)
Raider description (D.T.D., 1930/21 to N.C.S.O

H X 61 — Data and route (N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1232/21)

Australia

CANBERRA
U.S. 4. — Now usefully employed on South Atlantic Trade route. Unless you particularly wish her to commence escort duty with convoy U.S. 4 at Sydney, propose she should arrive Fremantle about one week before convoy leaves that port. (D.T.D. (F) to N.C.N.B., 0119/21)

War Diary

4.5.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

MOSJOEN, MO, BODO.

Sweep — Your 1725. Nothing located in Bodo, Salt Fiord or vicinity. Intend to sweep for Submarines mentioned in your 2301/3 from Tennholmen Light returning to Ofot Fiord about 0730 (BASILISK, 0114/4).

Landing Operation — Operation completed apparently unobserved. All stores, mails, etc., excepting those landed at Mo were transferred to SCOTT. Ships sailed for Scapa 0645 (MOHAWK, 2205/4)

Iceland - Operation Fork

Orders — A force is being sent to Iceland (total 817 officers and men) including R.M. Battalion, R.N. howitzer crews, R.M. gun crews. Force to be self-contained and provided with one month's provisions. To embark Greenock a.m. Tuesday 7/5 in ships detailed by C. in C., H.F., stores being consigned to Greenock and marked Force FORK. (D. of P. 1903/4).

Details of Naval Howitzer Section from Portsmouth to accompany R.M. Battalion. (D.T.S.D., 1904/4).

O.C. — Cash £3,000 to be handed to Colonel R.G. Sturges, R.M., O.C. Force FORK, prior to sailing (D. of P. 1930/4).

Allied Submarines

TAKU — Unknown number of enemy merchant ships expected to pass through LKND 3205 southbound today Saturday. TAKU proceed through this position and thence coastwise to Selbjorne Fiord. (R.A.S. 0706/4).

STURGEON — Cancel my 0706. Enemy ships now expected to pass JSND 3205 on way to Stavanger. STURGEON proceed to JSND 3000 (V.A.S. 0944/4)

ORZEL — (see Enemy Intelligence).

War Diary

21.7.1940.
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CHALOTTE SCHLIEMANN — Moving to outer berth alongside and shows indication of leaving shortly. (Las Palmas, 1115/21)

HUNDSBECK — At Seville. Fire on board 16/7, spontaneous combustion wine yeast. Considerable damage to cargo. (I.C. 0519/40)

LUVSEE — Left Triest for Zelinicka Y.S. on 17/7 likely to be held up for cargo of bauxite owing insufficiency of stocks (I.C. 0519/40)

DELOS — Was due at Baila 20/7 from Batum (I.C.0519/40)

ITHAKA
LARISSA — Are due at Braila about 25/7 (I.C.,0579/40)

HAVELLAND — (Left Manzanillo 27/6) Reported sighted 2 days out flying the Swedish flag. (I.C. 0519/40)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

PLAVE 7566 tons, is believed to have been at Assab on July 14th (I.C. 0519/40)

INTEGRITAS, 5952 tons, which sailed from Colombo on May 30, is believed to have been at Dante in Italian Somaliland on July 19. (I.C., 0519/40)

ARABIA, 5943 tons, at Assab in Italian Eritrea, is reported to be trying to find a neutral ship to take her cargo, including ammunition probably of German origin, to the Persian Gulf. (D.S., 22/7)

REMO seized in prize at Fremantle. Arrived at Port Philip, Melbourne, 21/7 (D.S.)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

LE RHIN — (see North Atlantic)

POLYNESIAN — Motor ship, direct route estimate speed 7 knots ultimate destination Noumea (Port Vila 2141Z/21)

SECRET WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS. 4.5.1940.
Saturday.

Shipping (contd.)

Humber	Humber has been reopened (I.C.,0440/40.)
Firing Practice	Merchant vessels in F.N.63 will carry out 12 pr. firing practice between Outer Dowsing and Flamborough on 6/5 if weather is suitable. (C. in C. Nore 1937/4).
Convoys	Positions, Ocean Convoys (D.C. 1929/4).
Danish Ships.	Treatment of merchant ships wearing Danish flags or markings. (Air Ministry 1310/4, repeats previous Admty.signal on this subject).

Miscellaneous.

Russian Reports.	Reported (C.3) that movements of British ships in Northern Norwegian waters are reported by W/T to Murmansk in Russian Naval Code.(D.N.I.1828/4)

WEATHER

0500/4	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
N.Sea	E., fresh	Moderate or good,coastal haze.	Similar.
Channel	N.W.light or moderate.	Moderate,poor in Straits of Dover.	Wind backing and freshening later.
W.Approaches.	Variable light.	Good.	Wind becoming S.W. fresh,visibility deteriorating.
Horns Reef.	E.,fresh	Mainly good,some coastal haze.	Similar.
W Coast Norway	S.E.in south, to S.W.in north.	Good in south,moderate in north.	Similar.

War Diary

21.7.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported

0610 — One submarine submerged in position 56.15N 2.21 W course 302° speed 1 knot. (Aircraft, 612 Sqdn., 0610/21)
My 0610. Position 56.15 N., 2.12 W., course 37 speed 1 knot (Aircraft 612 Sqdn. 0645/21) later cancelled (D.S. 22/7)

0319 — By aircraft 60.53' N., 02.41'E., (D.S.)(see submarines attacked)

1100 — Suspected submarine contact (FOWEY 1100/21) Wreck in position 56.24 N., 2.15 W., (C. in C., Rosyth, 1145/21)

1603 — S.W. of the Naze, position indefinite (I.C., 0519/40)

No German submarine seen Villa Real de Santo Antonio, but 2 Spanish submarines sighted at 11 hours off Cape Carvoeiro steering south ((Lisbon, 1133/21)

Estimated Dispositions

1 in Western Approaches or may have moved south.

1 reaching Western Approaches from the North.

2 in norther North Sea homeward bound.

1 small U/B possibly on patrol W. of Sogne Fiord.

(I.C. 0518/40)

Submarines Attacked

0319 — By aircraft 60.53' N., 2.41 E., 83° Muckle Flugga 102' 1 hit claimed. (I.C. 0518/40) (aircraft 269 Sqdn., 0319/21) Attacked with salvo of 3 250 lb bombs from 400 ft. Fell 10 yards 3 points on port bow. U-Boat had not dived and was seen to heel over by air gunner. Later pilot and W/T operator saw underside of U-Boat which broke surface and sank, disappeared upside down. No oil seen but swirl of bubbles as it sank. (Donibristle 0700/21, 1640/21)

1445 — Have attacked firm contact in position 58° 27' 30" N., 02° 32' W., Some oil and metal have come to surface. Rejoining convoy at 1600. An ~~buoying~~ buoying position (WESTON, 1445/21) Probably a wreck (I.C. 0519/40)

1

WAR DIARY.

5.5.40.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/M's Reported.

Estimated dispositions. No reliable indications of any changes. (D.D/C 1159/5).

0005 — Suspicious schooner rigged vessel possibly disguised S/M reported off Castle Bay Basse 0005 to-day. (C. in C. Rosyth 0229/5)

0825 — Entrance to R. Ems, reliable position (I.C.0441/40)

1045 — A/C reported periscope 57° 15' N., 01° 56' W. (off Aberdeen) (C. in C. Rosyth 1222/5) 1 Anson ordered to attack (Donibristle, 1250/5)

1427 — By A/C JSHN 4404. Large patch oil with heavy scum. No size of U-boat (H.Q.C.C.1700/5)

1106 — S/M reported at Buvaagen, 68° 09' N., 15° 27' E. (PENELOPE, 1106/5).

1603 — Norwegian report, 1 S/M observed outside Moholman, West Fiord. 68° 09' N., 14° 25' E. (PENELOPE 1631/5)

2030 — Report from trawlers (doubtful) 55° 42' N., 07° 24'W., 25 m. N.N.W. from Malin Head, Co.. Donegal (343° Tuishtyshull 18').

0515 — By WESTON, further attack in daylight (no position given) No results.(WESTON 0515/5).

2135 — VALENTINE attacked contact possible S/M 3 patterns no sign on surface in position 52° 07' N., 1° 52' E. WESTON to remain until further orders, VALENTINE proceeding with convoy. (VALENTINE, 2133/5) Asdic operator reports water discharge noise 3 seconds duration at 2139. (VALENTINE, 0951(6) Doubtful (I.C.0442/40)

War Diary

21.7.1940.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Attacked

2139/19 My 2139/19, attack on submarine by BERYL and flying boats. Consider now attack successful R.A.F. consider their attack was on another submarine and successful, but consider it a possibility only. (F.O.I.C., Malta, 2101/21)

War Diary

21.7.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Milford Haven

Port is open (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1301/21). Port will be closed from sunset tonight till 0900/22. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1501/21). 2 of 4 mines dropped last night have been exploded, making 6 exploded out of 10 dropped ~~in last two nights~~. Remaining 4 mines have been marked. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1911/21 to Adty.)

Aultbea

Report area considered clear (C. in C., H.F. 1803/21 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea). Channel clear through positions B,C, and D. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1831/21). BURLINGTON exploded mine today at 046° Ruda Nan Sasan Triangle 9.8 cables. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1547/21 to F.O.C. Orkney).

Spit Buoy

One red mine detonated 356° N.E. Spit Buoy 12 cables. (C. in C.Nore 1815/21 to Adty.)

Plymouth

During night 20/21, 2 magnetic mines dropped outside Western Entrance of which I has been destroyed and two N.W of Shagstone. (C. in C. W.A. 2009/22 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

At 58:10 N., 6:30 E. 2 M.Vs, 5000 and 4000 tons, steering N. coastwise speed 10 knots at 0555/21. Aircraft report (Donibristle, 0955/21).

Lister

At 0615/21 at 57:45 N., 5:45 E., 5 sloops escorting 10,000 ton Oil Tanker. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 1025/21).

One enemy M.V., possibly escorted, reported on fire in 57:15 N., 7:1

War Diary

22.7.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Burning of Oil Fuel and Petrol

Adty's 1945/20. Owing to local conditions it is agreed with Military that this is unsuitable for Clyde Sub-Command. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1845/22 to Adty.)

Destroyers based on Portsmouth instead of Dover.

V.A. Dover's 1253/21. Concur (C. in C., Portsmouth 1850/22)

Fighter Aircraft Proposed alteration of Rules as to Recognition and Approach

Your 1557/12. Concurrance and proposals (C. in C., Portsmouth 1907/22 to Adty.)

U.P. Defence of Dover Harbour

Please advise whether this being installed at any other Port and whether firing at Dover is controlled by A/A Defence Commander. (Air Ministry DA 1900/22 to Adty.)

Movements

Home Fleet

The Fleet has reverted to 4 hours notice for steam. (C. in C., H.F. 1043/22)

Submarines

Positions and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600/23 in Area A.
TRITON XZMF 5720 TRIDENT STADLANDET SNAPPER PCMF 5025 THAMES JZUB 3030.
H 31 in H one and H.2 leaving p.m. for Blyth H 28 YXTA 1022 in H.50 CPSC 5555 H.34 LSWT 0855 proceeding on surface to Lowestoft.
TRUANT arraives Rosyth a.m. from North East.
NARWHAL RQWT 3010 CLYDE JZGR 1300 WILK JXMF 2010 all three proceeding on surface to DNXG 1613, Dundee and Rosyth respectively. (V.A.S. 1752/22)

Positions and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600/23 in Area B.
TIGRIS vicinity KQQG 4130 CACHALOT leaves Plymouth p.m. escorted for Clyde. (V.A.S. 1754/22)

/M/L Flotillas.....

War Diary

22.7.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

M/L Flotillas — To assemble at Portsmouth, Peterhead and Holyhead. (D.A/S.W. 1844/22) 1st M/L Flotilla will operate from Stornoway. Request sail M/L's 106 and 108 there now, and 107,109,110 when ready. (D.A/S.W. 2036/22 to C. in C., W.A.)

Generator-fitted Drifters — 2 to be sailed from Harwich and one from Dover, all to Plymouth to operate under C. in C., W.A. Report names. (D.M.S. 1833/22) Your 1855/22 GOLDEN VIEW and SILVER SEAS (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2051/22)

Iceland

Escort for Troopship leaving Clyde 27th July. — Adty's. 2239/20. Other known commitments this date are 5 for M/L Squadron, which will not leave enough screen for Fleet to proceed to sea. (C. in C., H.F. 1201/22 to 1st S.L.)

Reinforcements — One R.M. Officer, one Sergeant, and 26 other ranks being despatched shortly, with transport, 3 lorries, 2 trucks with trailers No more Marines or equipment available. (War Office 1625/22 to Alabaster, Reykjavik)

Convoys — Adty. 1307/17 and 2239/20. Names of ships in Fast convoy and Slow convoy. Both should be ready to leave Clyde p.m./27th July, and should be sailed for Reykjavik when ready. (D.O.D. H. 2003/22 to C. in C., W.A.)

Gironde

Your 2301/19. Consider attack by Motor Boats impracticable. Reasons stated. Prefer attack by destroyers, or combined Naval and Air attack. (C. in C., W.A. 1339/22 to Adty.)

Bordeaux

Your 2009/21. Before Operation Hurry an operation to destroy M/V's in Le Verdon Roads and at Bordeaux by aircraft from ARK ROYAL is to be carried out. Hoped to obtain air R/C before this operation. (D.O.D. F. 2032/22)

War Diary

22.7.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

E-Boat reported 3 miles S.W. of St. Catherines Point, steering East, at 1312/22. 3 Blenheims to investigate and attack. (A.C.H.Q. Chatsham 1405/22 to Adty.)

Three, possibly four, craft probably E-Boats steering westerly along French Coast past Cape Blanc Nez at 1550/22 (V.A. Dover 1603/22 to Adty.)

Cherbourg — P.R.U. Sortie today shows no E-Boats at Cherbourg. (P.I.U. 2010/22)

Air- Enemy Air Activity

An even-numbered HN Convoy being attacked by aircraft at VZGR 3058 (WOLFHOUND 0424/22) One aircraft, six bombs, no hits. (WOLFHOUND 0503/22)

Leith — One bomb, probably 1000 lb. dropped 0550/22 on S.E. side Albert Dock. Two smaller bombs east of Edinburgh Dock. One A.F.S. killed, five A.F.S. wounded. No naval damage. (N.O.I.C. Leith 0750/22 to Adty.)

FS.22 — Attacked by one aircraft at 0540/22. Four bombs, no hits, aircraft chased away by Fighters. (LOWESTOFT 1841/22)

British Air Activity

Railway at Dale (near Bergen) — 8 Skuas left Sumburgh 0130 (Hatston 0145/22 to F.O.C. Orkneys.)

WAR DIARY. 6th May, 1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air

British Air Activity.

Esbjerg	Reconnaissance report (A.C.H.Q.Chatham 0740/6)
Stavanger	Heavy attack to be made on Stavanger aerodrome tonight with object of reducing likely scale of attack on Narvik. Security patrols and "G" reconnaissance should continue. (Air Ministry to Bomber Cmd. 1225/6)
Security Patrol.	By Wellingtons. (H.Q.,B.C.0026/6, 0250/6, 0500/6)
NURNBERG cruiser to be attacked.	See Enemy Intelligence.
Balloon barrage, Scapa Flow.	At present much too thin. Proposals. (A.C.O.S.1141/6)
Air Searches	For 7/5 (C.in C.Rosyth 1930/6.
M/O.D.1145/40	Proposed that a/c's of 821 or 823 Sqdns. carry out this operation (Head of M.1849/6)
"WINKLE"	F/206 on "WINKLE" reports no enemy activity observed (Chatham A.C.H.Q.0718/6)
Re 1400/28/4	Second combat reported; one of our a/c's shot down (GLORIOUS 1600/6)

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy a/c's destroyer.	Reports received show that in last three weeks A.A. gunfire of H.M.Ships has accounted for at least 30 enemy aircraft. This is great improvement on previous results, and if we can double the number of aircraft shot down for the same number of rounds, we shall be well on way to making bombing attacks on ships unprofitable. (1st S.L. 2103/6)

War Diary

23.7.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

St. George's Channel	Minefield dangerous to surface vessels to be laid across S. entrance of St. George's Channel with a gap 10' wide to seaward of line joining Trevose Head and Hartland Point. To be laid by 1st M/L Squadron and to take precedence of all other operations including East Coast Barrier. (1st S.L. 1044/22)
Plymouth	Port closed owing to Mines. (C. in C., W.A. 0122/22)
Liverpool	Closed due to suspected Minelaying from aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0130/22 to Adty.) Reopened.
Humber	Closed. Minelaying suspected. (F.O. Humber 0140/22 to Adty.) Now open (F.O. Humber, 0735/22)
Falmouth	Port closed owing to Mines (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 0155/22 to Adty.)
Holyhead	Closed. Suspected Magnetic Mines. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0430/22 to Adty.)
Milford Haven	Closed. Further Magnetic Mines laid. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 0731/22 to Adty.) Port is open (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1037/22)
Preston	Port Open. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0915/22 to Adty.)
Spurn Point	Two Red Mines exploded 161° Spurn Point Lighthouse 1.8 miles, and 180° eleven cables. (F.O. Humber 0920/22 to C. in C., Nore.)
Workington	Port closed due to suspected aircraft mining. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1225/22)
Liverpool	Minelaying air raid from 0110 to 0135/22 the third M/L Raid this week in which XXX no A/A defensive action taken. Request urgent representations (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1300/22) Port open (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1332/22 to Adty.) Request deally in defensive action be investigated. (D. of L.D. 1819/22 to Air Ministry)
Swansea	Mine exploded 161° Mumble Head 1.8 miles (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1410/22)

/Holyhead.....

War Diary

6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys - Norway.

N.S.2	Sailed 0230 for Narvik - MASHOBRA, BALZAC, CALUMET, COTSWOLD, escorted by JAVELIN, JACKAL, BRESTOIS and BOULONNAIS. Route. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0239/6).

War Diary

22.7.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining Contd.

Holyhead — H.M. Trawler CAMELINA mined at 1342/22 about 100 yards S. of the Outer Breakwater Light. 3 casualties. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1510/22 to Adty.)

Maryport / Billoth — Mined (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1520/22 to Adty.)

Milford Haven — 5 certain, 6 possible Magnetic Mines dropped last night. Six mines exploded yesterday Intend closing Harbour at 2130/22 untill 1100/23 (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1801/22 to Adty.)

Plymouth — My 1642/20 Fourth Mine has been destroyed. Night 21/22, 8 mines dropped in sound of which 3 destroyed, and 6 outside breakwater of which 1 destroyed. Port opened, but Sound anchorage not yet safe. (C. in C., W.A. 2009/22 to Adty.)

Liverpool — Six red Magnetic mines exploded by LL sweep in Crosby Channel. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2319/22 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Helder — At 0128/22, 5½ miles S.W. of Helder, one large Cargo-Boat and a launch at anchor. (T.H.I. 0307/22)

Barren — At 0255/22 one M/V anchored in 60° 25' N., 5° 8' E about 600 tons; and one M/V of 4000 tons heading South into Fiord at 60° 37'N 4° 56'E. aircraft report. (Denibristle 0615/22)

Cherbourg — At 1211/22, two small ships entering Harbour from N.E. and two small ships stationary Aircraft report. (Chatham ACHQ. 1500/22)

At 1436/22 at 50° 48' N., 0° 40' W., a fast Motor Boat with 2 men. No Torpedo Tubes or M/G's. At 1500 turned towards Newhaven. (A.C.H.Q., 1620/22)

Havre — At 0340/22, six miles W. of Havre, about 12 vessels believed anchored. (H.Q.B.C. 1934/22)

Peel Island — At 0001/22, two miles N. of Peel Island at 54° N., 12 moderate sized cargo boats at anchor. (H.Q.B.C. 1934/22)

/Trondheim.....

War Diary 6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Mosjoen - Mo - Bodo (Contd.)

Guns (contd.) to Mo. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C., H.F., etc., 1858/6).

Troops for Bodo ROYAL ULSTERMAN to arrive Leith not later than a.m. 8/5 to embark about 450 troops and 200 tons stores for passage to Bodo, sailing from Leith p.m. 10/5 (D.O.D.(H) 1856/6).

Bodo (Operation SCISSORS)

Troops. To leave Leith about 10/5 in ROYAL ULSTERMAN for Bodo. Total approx. 39 officers 4520 R's 250 tons supplies in same ship or following shortly (D. of P.1809/6, Gen. Massy to Col. Gubbins in ROYAL SCOTSMAN).

Iceland - Operation Fork.

Destroyers 2 destroyers to accompany BERWICK. (C. in C., H.F., 0921/6) FEARLESS and FORTUNE detailed (R.A.D., H.F., 1216/6). Orders to BERWICK (C. in C., H.F., 1009/6).

Aircraft If temporary arrangements for fuelling and maintenance can be made, you should consider leaving one Walrus from BERWICK and one from GLASGOW in Iceland at the disposal of Colonel Sturges. Possible facilities may exist at Vatnagardar near Reykjavik as a seaplane station or at Kaldadarnes, 63:56 N., 21:10 W. as a landing ground. (D.N.A.D., 1935/6).

HOME CONTAINS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

Trondheim	2 cruisers and 1 destroyer. Aircraft report (C. in C., Rosyth 2053/22 to Adty.) (Denibristle 2115/22)
Ushant	2 miles from Baie de Stiff, E of Ushant, a large unidentified vessel. (C. in C., W.A. 2100/22 to Adty.)

Shipping

Escort of Channel Convoys	Owing to risk of loss to Destroyers, these Convoys should in future be escorted by A/S Trawlers and should be run on an irregular six-day cycle. (D.C.D.H. 1837/22)
Convoy FS 28	Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0425/22)
Convoy OA 188	To Milford Haven fro Bristil LAKEWOOD. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0949/22)
Convoy FN 29	Departure VERDUN at 0600/22 with Convoy.(22) (C. in C., Nore 0920/22) (NCSO Thames 0954/22
Convoy OAN 188	Destinations (NCSO Methil 0804/22)
Convoy HG 39	Extract from Sailing Telegram (DTD 1127/22) (DTD 1247/22)
KYLE FISHER	To be sailed for Methil in FN 30 and in OA 190 leaving Methil 26th July. (C. in C., Rosyth 1515/22 to F.O.I.C. Tyne)
Convoy OA 188	Proceeding up E coast of Scotland and passing Pentland Firth at 0630/23 (ACOS 2010/22)
Convoy FN 29	Expected arrive Outer Dowsing 0500/23 (FLEETWOOD 2130/22 to N.O.I.C. Humber)
Convoy OA 188	Expects arrive Pentland Firth 0730/23 (SKERRA 2153/22 to F.O.C.O.S.)
OA Convoys	Considered that any ship with these convoys carrying valuable cargo, like KYLE FISHER should never be unescorted for any part of journey. (C. in C., Rosyth 2257/21 to Adty)
Convoy FN 30	23rd July. 21 Ships (N.C.S.O.Thames 0652/22)

War Diary

6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Narvik (contd.)

Composition of force to operate from Harstad (D.N.A.D. 1939/6). Adty. 1808/6.
Float planes must be moored out. (F.O., Narvik, 2317/6).

Bardu Foss Aerodrome — In view of reports on Bardu Foss it has now been decided to transport F.A.A. floatplanes force in GLORIOUS, sailing as soon after 12/5 as possible. FURIOUS will be required to transport an R.A.F. Gladiator Squadron of 16 as soon as ready. FURIOUS will proceed to northward of Narvik and be ready to land Gladiators as soon as aerodrome is reported ready for use. If it is subsequently decided to transport a Hurricane squadron, the aircraft will be hoisted on board and not flown on (D.N.A.D. 1810/6 to C. in C., H.F.).

Aircraft approaching Narvik and Harstad — Course to be taken (Air Min. 1725/6).

A.A. Guns — Requesting number of 8-in Oerlikon A.A. guns you could mount in H.M. trawlers in your command (D.T.S.D. to F.O. Narvik, 1950/6).

HILLSEA
WOOTTON — Southern Railway car ferries. Inquiring whether they are suitable to make passage to Narvik and take part in operations there (D.O.D.(H) 2009/6 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Local Administration — Requesting arrangements with Norwegian Govt. re policy and administration for billeting, hire of ground, use of trucks, control of labour and payment. (For Mr. Lascells from Foreign Office). (D.O.D.(H) to F.O. Narvik, 2257/6).

Situation — (From War Office for Rupert Force): Intelligence Report to 1800/6. Our appreciation is that Germans are likely to push forward on all preparations with a view to early relief of Narvik and that meanwhile air attacks will continue. (D. of P., 2234/6 to F.O. Narvik).

War Diary

22.7.1940.
Monday

0500

WEATHER

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea North South	North Moderate West Moderate	Good	Similar
Channel	West. Light	Good to very good.	Wind veering N.W. Moderate
Western Approaches	N.W. Light	Good to very good	Wind backing S.W. Vis. Moderate to Good.
Horns Reef	S.W. Moderate	Good to very good	Similar
Dutch Coast			

War Diary

22.7.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CAMPINA — H.M.Trawler. Mined at Holyhead at 1342/22 about 100 yards South of Outer Breakwater light. 3 casualties (M.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1510/22 to Adty.)

PERSEUS — Submarine. 4 days overdue from operating off Sicily and must be considered lost. (D.O.R. 322)

War Diary

6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Narvik (contd.)

Base Staffs — At Harstad, Lodingen etc. Re. 0026/1, 2301/1 (F.O., Narvik, 1907/5).

CALCUTTA
PENELOPE — To sail when ready to Skjel Fiord to provide A.A. protection to the westward as far as long. 01° E. if practicable to PENELOPE who may be ready to sail 8/5 probably in tow of BANDIT and BUCCANEER and also for similar portion of route to Convoy N.S.2. Return to Scapa on completion, affording A.A. protection to any convoy that may be sailing from Narvik area at that time. (C. in C., H.F., 1542/6).

Request PENELOPE sailed as soon as possible with escort of 4 destroyers. (C. in C., H.F. 1608/6).

Bardufoss Aerodrome — For adr Min. from Wing Comdr. Atcherley:- Norwegian Army Squadron insists on sharing Bardufoss. Apart from congestion consider this most undesirable. Tension resulting from evacuation of south still exists. Norwegian staff suggest we reform and re-equip their Army Squadrons in England immediately. Consider excellent solution. (F.O. Narvik, 1545/6).

COVENTRY — To sail 8/5 to Sullom Voe to refuel and thence to Narvik area following route ordered for CHOBRY. If this ship overtaken, remain to give her A.A. protection to destination and then as required by F.O., Narvik. (C. in C., H.F., 1620/6).

Harstad, Float-planes — Your 1040/5. Is it possible to operate floatplanes from beaches at Harstad or must they be moored out. (D.N.A.D. 1808/6 to R.A., Narvik).

Operation BISHOP — My 2015/1. Now confirmed that 18 Rocs and 9 Swordfish as float planes and 6 Walrus will form the force, together with approx. 60 officers and 400 men. Force will operate from Harstad initially. Arrangements for stores and ammunition. Flying and squadrons maintenance personnel and aircraft sail in GLORIOUS on 12/5, remainder of personnel in MANELA on 11/5. Reserve aircraft leave in FOSSBECK about 15/5. MANELA as accommodation ship. Code name of this operation is BISHOP. (D.N.A.D. 1939/6).

War Diary

22.7.40.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Escorts Convoys — Escort commitments foreseen about 28/7 or 29/7. Two additional convoys, one fast, one slow, with evacuated Gibraltarians. Request 2 destroyers or escort ships be sailed for Gibraltar to meet extra convoy requirements. (F.O.C.N.A., 1320/22). Remainder of signal see Operations Volume.

South Atlantic

ARMY H.Q. — H.Q. now established at Accra. (G.O.C. West Africa, 1154/22 to W.O.)

Aircraft Freetown — Adty. 1555/17. 7 aircraft from HERMES now landed Wellington aerodrome, Freetown, with 6 pilots, etc. One aircraft as spare will be taken on charge in maintenance pool transferred from Dakar. Flight is being called 814 Sqdn. Y Flight, under command of Lt. Com. H.C.N. Rolfe. (C. in C., S.A., 1319/22).

ALCANTARA — To examine Trinidada Island Channel between patrol K.33. Other circumstances permitting keep outside 250 miles from coast. HAWKINS will patrol U.32 (d) and L.32 (b). (R.A.S.A.D., 1632/22).

DRAGON, Duala — DRAGON's 2110/21. Governor, Nigeria, signals he considers it essential that DRAGON should remain at Duala until situation becomes clearer. Am loath to leave her there much longer but consider under the circumstances there is no alternative. (C. in C., S.A., 1636/22 to Adty.).

St. Vincent — Re German seamen and Italians landed, and movements of Portuguese guardship. (Consul, St. Vincent, 1611/22).

WAR DIARY. 7.5.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Dutch precautions. Press report Navy and Air Force leave also cancelled.

Risk of d.c's being hit by splinters. CARLISLE8 1120/6. If you concur, please issue instructions that when operating in waters where heavy air attack may be expected, non-asdic fitted ships should either land their depth charges or stow them below upper deck. (D.A/S.W.2023/7 to C.in C. H.F.) (PELICAN'S d.c's were detonated in this way - M.S.M.)

HUNTER'S men. Will not be interned but are free to leave as soon as we can arrange their departure (Mr. Mallet, Stockholm 0155/7).

Smoke Candles. Observed 1½ miles N.E. of contact of position 0930 and 1010/6. SHELDRAKE to investigate (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1215/7).

WEATHER.

0500, B.S.T.

	Wind.	Visibility.	Outlook.
North Sea.	Westerly, light or moderate.	Moderate or good.	Similar.
Channel.	Variable or northerly light.	Moderate or good, mist on French coast.	Similar.
W.Approaches.	N., light.	Good.	Similar.
Horns Reef.	Variable, light.	Moderate or poor.	Wind becoming W. moderate, visibility improving.
W. Coast Norway.	S.W. Force 4-5.	Good in N., moderate or poor S. of 65° N.	Weather deteriorating in North, similar in South.

War Diary

22.7.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Operation Against Bordeaux

Considered ARK ROYAL should have not less than 4 destroyers to screen her. -13th Flotilla must be drawn upon if necessary. (1st. S.L. to V.A. Force H., 0205/22)

Admty. 2032/22 and 1813/22. ARK ROYAL, ENTERPRISE and destroyers sail 0630/23 to carry out operation s.m./26 owing to endurance of destroyers speed of advance will be limited to about 15 knots and extent of operations for interception of shipping en route will be strictly limited unless favoured by head winds. (F.O., Force H., 2356/22)

Destroyers Available Operation "HURRY"

F.O.C., Force H., 1110/22, 1314/22 C., in C., 1903/22. See Mediterranean Volume.

WAR DIARY.

7.5.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
(Continued).

East Indies.

Opening of Mediterranean. All British Merchant Ships which left Basra for United Kingdom via the Cape on or after 30th April, are to proceed to Aden for orders. (D.T.D. 0059/8).

Danish Ships. Situation regarding Danish ships in Colombo is not altogether satisfactory and unless certain steps are taken harmonious working cannot be ensured when transfer of flag is completed. Details (C.in C. E.I. 1542Z/4).

U.S.3. Your 1236/6. Your intentions are concurred in. Provision of 4 destroyers for U.S. 3 must be subject to review by Commander in Chief, Mediterranean nearer the time of the operation. Presume you will consider repetition of air escort on lines of that given to U.S.2. (D.C.D.(F)1905/7 to C. in C. E.I.).

Contraband Control. Ships bound via Suez Canal for Spanish Mediterranean ports to be controlled at Aden or Port Said those for Spanish Atlantic or Portuguese ports at Gibraltar.
Eastbound vessels for Spanish Mediterranean ports from Holland or Belgium to be detained Gibraltar until released by M.E.W.
(D.E.W.D. 2109/7).

China.

German Claims. The Germans claim to have sunk battleships, cruisers, etc. recently. Requesting in future detailed denials may be communicated as soon as possible. Unfortunate effect in Japan. (N.A. Tokyo 1256/7)

Danish Ships. Re Maersk Line ships (C.O.Is Far East 0509/7)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

SURCOUF — Asking if she could be used to transport important stores between Gibraltar, Malta, and Eastern Mediterranean. (F.O.C.N.A., to Adty. 1230/22).

Press Communiques — Urgent consideration being given to your 2225/17. Difficulty of issuing communiques locally when Fleet is at sea, synchronising Adty. and local communiques, and inevitable time lag. Request your remarks. (D.P.D. to C. in C., Med., 2005/22).

Malta, Situation — 64 air raids since Italy declared war. Very few casualties to service personnel. Maximum number of bombers in any one attack 25. Most raids by day, but some by night. Low flying M.G. attacks on a few occasions. Italians have tried formilitary objectives only, but bombing inaccurate and damage to these superficial. 11 planes confirmed destroyed, 8 other badly damaged. R.N. have maintained R/S and local patrols and probably accounted for several submarines. Dockyard work disturbed only for a short time in earlier raids. Morale high. Minimisation of effect of Italian raids may only produce intensification. Suggest Italian dream of intensive damage dong be allowed to continue in view of meagre defence. (Governor, Malta, no T.O.O. 22)

Black Sea — Deutschlandsender 22/7 announced that the Roumanian passenger steamship service from Constanza to Istanbul which had been suspended on the Italians entering into the war would resumed as from that date.

Italian Propaganda — Local Press states Italians consider one British cruiser superior force to two Italian cruisers. We all know it, but suggest B.B.C. gives it an airing. (Belgrade, 1400/22, to Adty.)

U-Boats, Evidence — Your 2139/19. Request that in this and all future reports evidence that U-boat was present may be signalled. (D.A.S.W. to F.O.I.C., Malta, 1116/22). Reply (F.O.I.C. Malta, 1659/22).

Shipping, Egypt — Requesting names of ships and general contents be given in advance of arrivals of convoys, and recommending shipping control organisation at Bombay or Durban. (C. in C., M.E. to W.O., 1230/22).

WAR DIARY

6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.
Mining.

Mines found. 1 magnetic mine was exploded off N. Foreland and a total of 8 were found in the Would. Four had been destroyed (VCNS

Narvik operation B.B.2 (See Narvik)
(Extension to the East Coast Mine Barrier) To be carried out 7/5 (PRINCESS VICTORIA 0915/6)

Magnetic Mine Seento drop approx. 131° Fixed Red Light Inner West Pier one cable. Parachute recovered, divers have so far failed to determine whether mine present (NOIC Blyth 2045/6)

Minelaying off Sogne Fiord. By PORPOISE. Orders. Date of laying about 1515 (R.A.(S) 0128/6)

War Diary 22.7.40.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Air

Balearic Isles Adty. 0043/20 and S.O.I., Gibraltar 0958/19. No confirmation but S.15 representative reports one Italian military aircraft refuelled at San Juan aerodrome 11/7. (N.A., Madrid, 1325/22).

No Raids Air intelligence report up to 1800/22, all times local. 0515, A/S patrol, nil report - nil enemy air activity over Malta today. (H.Q., Malta, 1610/22).

East Indies

Ships Overdue British ships BLAIRADAN due Rangoon 18/7 and BRITISH INTEGRITY due Abadan 18/7 both from Capetown, overdue. (C. in C., E.I., 0456Z/22). Errors in signal letters. Ships should be KEMMENDINE and BRITISH RESOLUTION (S.O.I., Capetown, 1521/22).

HOBART, air attack C. in C., E.I., 0756/22 (see 21/7).

Reserve Ammunition Reserve low as result of SYDNEY's action. Request remarks on possibility of escorting PALESTINIAN PRINCE and MUNCASTER CASTLE ahead of B.N.3 from Aden to Canal area. (C. in C., E.I. to S.N.O. Red Sea, 1140Z/22).

Your 2011/20, re transport of ammunition. See my 1140/22 for PALESTINIAN PRINCE and MUN CASTER CASTLE. DAFILA expected Aden about 10/8 and will sail in B.N.3. No information regarding WAIMANA. (C. in C., E.I., to C. in C., Med., 1144Z/22).

Air Reports (H.Q., Aden, 1740/22, no naval items).

A/A Ships Adty. 0122/21. Consider wrong to assess future Italian air menace in Aden and Red Sea area on immunity of B.N.I. and B.S.1 from attack. Visibility was bad throughout. Calls on units of Red Sea Force many and each operation requires air protection. Do not consider we are at present over-insured. Suggest position reviewed again after passage of B.N.3 and B.S.3. (C. in C., E.I. to Adty., 1828Z/22)

War Diary

6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Submarines

? SEAL — Press report German destroyer disabled British submarine with depth charge at noon 5/5 outside Vinga. Crew of submarine embarked in destroyer which then took submarine in tow and proceeded to southwards. (N.A., Gottenburg. 1217/6).

Patrol Positions — My 1524/6. Submarines are to proceed patrol positions as follows:-

STURGEON,	between	latitude	53:40	and	53:30.
TRIAD,	"	"	53:30	"	53:20.
CALYPSO (Fr.)	"	"	53:20	"	53:10.
SNAPPER	"	"	53:10	"	53
SEAWOLF	"	"	53	"	52:50.
SHARK	"	"	52:50	"	52:40.

STURGEON to operate in A 5 West of 04:10 E., TRIAD, CALYPSO, SNAPPER, SEAWOLF, SHARK to operate East of 04° E. French submarines AMAZONE and DORIS to operate between lat. 53:10 and 53, and 53 and 52:50 respectively, and between long. 03:15 E. and 03:50 E. Submarines operating in 8 positions referred to above are not to attack other submarines unless definitely known to be hostile, and attacks are to be confined to enemy warships, merchant ships only being attacked if they are escorted by enemy warships. (R.A.(S), 1908/6).

Movements — After sunset today, following movements to take place:-

TAKU to MBRU. French submarines LA SIBYLLE and ANTIOPE to Harwich route as ordered by Capt. S.10. French CALYPSO to H.1. TRIAD from Rosyth to Northern half of N.2, SNAPPER to southern half of H.2, STURGEON to A.5. (R.A.(S), 1524/6, Capt.(S)10, 1701/6).

Positions — 0600/7 (D.C. 1945/6, V.A.S. 1819/6).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

COLOMBO Bombed — H.M.S. COLOMBO bombed by 1 aircraft in position 01:15 S., 42:10 E., at 1320 G.M.T./22. Six bombs dropped, ship straddled but no damage. (C. in C., E.I., 1708/22).

China

EMPRESS OF JAPAN — Date of sailing for Australia with evacuees from Hong Kong. (Cdre. I.C., H.K., 0335Z to D. of S.T.).

KANIMBLA — Your 1544/21. Should it be decided to send A.M.C's from China Station, KANIMBLA most suitable. Present position and movements. (C. in C., China, to C. in C., E.I., 0829Z/22).

Evacuation — Re family evacuation from Hong Kong, plans, numbers, etc. (G.O.C., Hong Kong, to C.O.S., Melbourne, 1900/22).

America & West Indies

ANTONIA — Now expected Halifax 1300/23 and can be ready to sail in 3 hours. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1121/22).

Raider Sinkings — Summary reports by ships' officers DAVISIAN and KING JOHN, sunk by NARVIK 10/7 and 13/7. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1124/22, 1456/22).

Raider Identity — My 1159/20. Further sifting of evidence shows raider more closely resembles STOLZENFELS. German shipwrights all busy on camouflage. (DIOMEDE, 1617/22).

Suspicious Ship — Asking for confirmation that British sloop ESME sighted suspicious motor vessel flying Swedish flag on 13/7 between Saba and Tortola, Leeward Isles. (D.D.I.C. to S.O.I., Jamaica, 1706/22, 1949/22).

Your 1706/22. ESME not at Kingston, possibly St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Reporting officer, St. Thomas requested to investigate. (S.O.I., Kingston, 2115/22).

War Diary

6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Narvik (contd.)

Aircraft Carriers — Your 1415/5. Primary patrol area Tjeldslinden. Subsidiary area (1) Bogen, Narvik, (2) Harstad. Enemy aircraft apparently operate at about 13,000 ft. (F.O. Narvik to V.A.A.C. 0932/6).

Destroyers — FAME has relieved Capt. (D)8 as S.O., Destroyers in West Fiord area. 9 destroyers (including Polish BLYSKAWICA) under his orders. (Capt.(D)8 1700/6).

Convoy — Your convoy is required at Harstad earliest date possible but time of arrival must be 2100. Report first date you can do this. Two batalions are to land here. (F.O. Narvik to ECHO, 1403/6).

Flying Boats Destroyed — Milson, Norway, reports CABOT refloated last night and towed to inconspicuous anchorage but located and destroyed 1100 hours bay side. Request assistance to evacuate crews of CABOT and CARIBOU. Enemy air activity increasing. Enemy intelligence appears good. Reconnaissance proceeding. Requires money for living expenses and transport. Request F.O., Narvik, assist in the evacuation of crews and provide Wilson with £100. (Air Min. to Adty. 1901/6).

Mosjoen - Mo - Bodo.

German Moves — For D.M.I. Norwegian Legation reports German motorised troops already in Mo, and over 100 troop-carrying planes proceeded towards Narvik, some probably carrying food. Norwegian officer from Namsos reports neither railway nor road Namsos-Mosjoen was destroyed nor prepared for demolition. President Hambro has information that 200 German sailors in uniform have arrived Murmansk. He believes another is in preparation to seize Kirkenes where 4,000 men are now employed in iron fields. (Military Attache, Stockholm, no T.O.O., recd. 1745/6).

French Troops — ULSTER PRINCE to embark French troops, approx. 100, recently landed at Mosjoen by JANUS and return them to Clyde. ROYAL SCOTSMAN is also to return to Clyde.

Guns — Request one escorting destroyer now with ULSTER PRINCE and ROYAL SCOTSMAN transfer the 2 Bofors guns, and crews from Mosjoen to.....

War Diary

22.7.40.
Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DELOS — Arrived Galatz. (Galatz, 1149/22).

LARISSA — Still awaiting orders Sulina (Galatz, 1149/22).

REKUM — Left Teneriffe 17/7. Advising North Patrol could arrive patrol 23/7. (F.O.C.N.P. 1419/22).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ENDERTA, AMBA ALAGI, FURIERE, CONSOLINI, GRANATIERE, PADULA — At Shanghai, reported intending to proceed immediately to Japan under charter to Yamashita flying Japanese flag. (S.O.I. Shanghai, 0829Z/22). To be intercepted if met regardless of flag and sent to Hong Kong in prize. (C. in C., China, 1438Z/22).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

CAGOU — Arrived 22/7 (N.C.S.O. Sydney, 0600Z/22).

LANGUEDOC — At Trinidad. Requisitioning completed. One officer 9 men remaining under British flag, remainder ashore here. Full complement could be completed locally but suggest survivors ex DAVISIAN or KING JOHN might be employed. (S.N.O. Trinidad, 1746/22).

War Diary

6.5.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Situation Report (contd.)

A/A Armament.

A report from R.A.(D), Home Fleet dated 5/5 states that the A/A armament of destroyers must be considered inadequate for modern needs. Four additional Oerliken guns would at least enable destroyers to fire at more than one aircraft at a time. C. in C., Home Fleet, to-day made further recommendations on this subject, stating that if necessary a portion of the torpedo or low-angle gun armament of destroyers must be sacrificed. (V.C.N.S. 246).

Movements

Escort of French ships — to Brest. Admiral MONTCALM concurs in 1235/5 (C. in C., H.F. 1727/6).

Admiralty Oilers — for Scapa not to be delayed awaiting escort. To be sailed independently if necessary. (D.T.D., 1811/6).

Operations - Narvik.

CAIRO — To proceed Narvik, route. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1103/6).

Fuel — No oil fuel remaining Skjel Fiord. Coal in BALMAIA unloading. (PENELOPE, 0943/6).

A.L.C.'s — Beg that all available A.L.C's. up to 12 may be sent immediately direct to Narvik and that I may be informed if and when they may be expected. (F.O. Narvik, 1209/6). Your 1209/6. All effective A.L.C.'s and M.L.C.'s were sent you in CYCLOPS and EMPIRE ABILITY. No more available until about third week in May. (D.O.D.(H)/6).

Minefield — Adty. 0017/2. Intend to lay surface minefield to protect southern entrance of Tjeldsundet and Ofot Fiords (details). (R.A., Narvik, 1430/6, 1435/6).

War Diary

22.7.40.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING.

Ships Attacked

H.M.Trawler CAMPINA — Sunk by mine 100 yds. S. of Outer Breakwater Light at 1342/22. 3 of crew saved out of 13 (I.C.0520/40).

A/Y ZAZA — Missed by torpedo 1050/22 51:11 N., 5:30 W. B.5. (I.C. 0520/40).

Submarines Reported

Possibility of one U-boat being on patrol West of Sogne Fiord. (R.A.(S) to submarines on Patrol 0021/22).

1050 — U/B reported in position 285° Hartland Point 38 miles reliable fix. BROKE and MACKAY ordered to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 1129/22).

0610 — U/B on surface later diving reported off Cape Cornwall steering north. (C. in C., W.A. 1144/22) 50:08 N., 05:47 W., reported by aircraft. (I.C. 0520/40).

0113 — Unknown submarine encountered on surface by submarine H.34. Dived in position 53:01 N., 3:46 E., course north. Visibility maximum 7/10 4000 ft. (H.34 2205/22).

1310 — 50:01 N., 03:39 W., about 13 m. S. from Start Point South Devon. 2 periscopes reported by aircraft. (B.5) (I.C. 0520/40).

Estimated Dispositions

2 in Western Approaches, one of which may be further south (I.C., 0519/40).

WAR DIARY.

7.5.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Positions.	Convoys and Patrols, noon 7/5 (D.C. 0028/7)
Ocean Convoys.	Positions, etc. (D.C.1958/7)
Sabotage at Gibraltar.	Report that 5 men left Spezzia in a s/m with markings painted out. Will attempt to enter Gib. from Spain to study methods of Sabotage (N.A. Rome 1152/7)

South Atlantic.

Trawlers building.	Asking whether Brazil will provide steel. Export of steel from U.K. presents difficulties (D.S.V.P.1204/7).
Oil fuel at Lobito.	1,300 tons in stock but ships cannot be supplied for some time owing to incomplete pipe line and no pump machinery. Up to 270 tons could be supplied in drums but very slowly. (S.O. (I) Cape Town 1210/7).

America and West Indies.

Convoy HX43.	Position and route (D.T.D.1706/7)

Mediterranean.

Italian Cable Ship.	Will be working between Sicily and Malta early in May (D.N.I.1644/7).

War Diary

22.7.40.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Attacked

1028 Aircraft bombing U-boat 58:19 N., 2:31 W. Am proceeding attack. ST LAURENT in company. (ROCHESTER, 1028/22). Attacked with dive bombs, estimate 4 hits. (Aircraft 612 Sqdn., 1028/22). My 1028. ST. LAURENT in contact, attacking. (ROCHESTER 1052/22). ZULU, FIREDRAKE and 4 trawlers proceeding to hunt. (F.O.C.O.S., 1158/22 to ROCHESTER)

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Attacked

At 2339/7 in 032:35 N. 028:30 E. while screening fleet HASTY sighted Italian U-boat on surface at 1000 yards. Attack carried out with full pattern, conning tower passing close down starboard side strong smell of oil after attack. Five minutes later four heavy underwater explosions heard. Consider attack successful. Depth of water 1440 fathoms.

At 0100/8 three miles from previous attack a confirmed contact was obtained while rejoining Fleet. A deliberate attack carried out. Again strong smell of oil but nothing else noticed Consider this was a second submarine possibly sunk certainly damaged. (C. in C., Med., 1133/22).

WAR DIARY

7.5.40
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Home Commands.

SEAL — A report from Sweden states that the crew of a pilot steamer which had arrived in Goteborg had witnessed the capture of a British S/M by a German destroyer, close to the 3 mile limit on the morning of 5/5. The crew of the S/M had been taken aboard the destroyer and the 2 ships had sailed in a southerly direction. This report is not believed either by V.A. (S) or in the Admiralty and N.A. Sweden has been asked urgently for details. (see 6/5 - Submarines).

GROM — To be replaced by one of our new destroyers, to be manned by survivors of GROM and named after her. (Private Office 1030/7).

BALZAC — A.A. storeship, grounded in Minches 7/5. Arrived Stornoway 1530/7. Her gear is t be transferred to s.s. MARINA. (V.C.N.S. 247)

Foreign Stations.

s.s. MATAKANA — Badly damaged, cannot be refloated. Off Bahamas. (C. in C. A.W.I.1927/7)

War Diary

23.7.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Largo Bay — First quarter-mile of Anti-Boat Boom Device now moored off Leven Beach by N.C.S. Drifters. Further sections will be proceeded with as quickly as they can be constructed. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1717/23 to C. in C., Rosyth).

A/A Organisation at Portsmouth — Am in entire agreement with last clause of C. in C. Portsmouth 1907/22. (C. in C. Nore, 0921/23 to Adty.)

Adty. 1557/17. Concur with Para. 2 as amended by C. in C., Portsmouth 1907/22. Ref. C. in C. Rosyth 1231/18 Para. B. confusion of bursts is of less importance than early attack on target. (C. in C., H.F. 1841/23 to Adty.).

Policy

Shetlands — Ammunition and equipment required to bring Naval and Military Forces to state of effeciency. (F.O.C.S. 1921/23 to 1st Lord).

Movements

4 Harwich destroyers required during laying of W.A. minefield — C. in C., Nore is requested to lend 4 destroyers of good endurance to C. in C. H.F. while minefield in Western Approaches is being laid. They should arrive Scapa pm 24th July and will be required about a fortnight. (DO.D.H. 1219/23 to C. in C., Nore). Four A class destroyers to be lent. Report names. (C. in C. Nore, 1256/23 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

DUNCAN — Request estimated date when ready for sea. (C. in C., H.F. 1749/23 to C. in C., Rosyth).

Humber Force — To raise steam with all despatch. (1st S.L. 2337/23 to C. in C., Nore).

War Diary

23.7.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

Submarines

Positions and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600/24 in area A:
TRIDENT, TRITON, SNAPPER, THAMES, H.50 as in my 1752/22.
H.28 H one and H two.
H.31 YZSC 4540 proceeding submerged by day to Blyth.
NARWHAL PCSC 5020 proceeding on the surface to DNXG 1613.
WILK and TRUANT due Rosyth am from North Eastward.
URSULA and SPEARFISH leave Blyth 0600 unescorted on the surface to Rosyth.
PORPOISE leaves Blyth 0700 unescorted on the surface to Immingham.

Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/24 in area B:
TIGRIS vicinity KQQG 4130.
CACHALOT leaves Plymouth 0830 escorted for Clyde. (V.A.S. 1744/23).

Operations

Operation "Nightingale"

Object to destroy Enemy M/Vs and Barges moving along French Coast. M.T.Bs to leave Dover when ordered by signal. (V.A. Dover, 1216/23 to Adty.)

Three M.T.Bs will leave Dover 2130/23 for Operation "Nightingale" between Boulogne and Calais (V.A. Dover 1735/23 to Adty.)

Against Reported Enemy Force

Striking Force of Skuas and Swordfish has left Hatston to attack Force reported by aircraft of 224 Sqdn. 5 cruisers and 6 destroyers at one hours notice and Battle-cruisers at 2½ hours notice. (C. in C., H.F. 2327/23 to Adty.)

THAMES proceed to 57:20 N., 4:40 E. to intercept Force reported in C. in C., Rosyth 2225 if they double back. The force may be minelaying. (V.A.S. 2336/23). See also submarines.

E-Boats

Two M.T.Bs bearing 090:2 course 090 position 51:18 N., 2:37 E. (Aircraft 500 Sqdn. 0045/23 to R.A.F. Chatham).

E-Boat operating near North Foreland (C. in C., Nore 0135/23 to VIVACIOUS).

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats (Contd.)

At 1642, 10' W. of Treport, one E-Boat steering South at high speed. (I.C. 0521/40).

2 E-Boats at about 0300/23 at 51:18 N. 2:37 E. course 090 speed 20 knots for Ostend. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0414/23).

At 0001/23 three small ships size M.T.Bs at 50:3 N., 3:17 W. course 270° speed 12 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 0416/23 to WITHERINGTON).

3 M.T.Bs bearing 060° my position 49:55 N., 1:1 E. (Aireraft 53 Sqdn. 1237/23).

At 0503/23 an E-boat reported bearing 048° from South Foreland (I.C. 0520/40).

Submarines

Submarine Patrols	Particulars of Submarine Patrols off Norwegian Coast and Texel during forthcoming dark night period. (V.A.S. 1152/23 to Adty.).
THAMES	To patrol near 57:15 N., 4:0 E. (R.A.S. 1939/23). See also Operations.

Air

British Air Activity

Helder	2 M/Vs about 600 tons and 4 smaller ones attacked at anchor at 2205/22 in basin S.W. of Helder. Direct hit and large fire started. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0145/23).

At 0230/23 in 50:40 N. 1:30 E. nine Barges attacked and two direct hits claimed (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0515/23).

Nine Skuas left Hatston 2330/23 to attack Enemy reported at 2215/23 at 57:35 N., 3:56 E. Returning to Dyce 0330. (Hatston 2335/23). Torpedo Force of six Swordfish left 2345. Returning to Dyce 0430 (Hatston 2356/23).

War Diary

23.7.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air (Contd.)

Enemy Air Activity

Granton	Incendiary bombs were dropped at 0023/23. No naval damage.
BROCK) ARLEY)	M/S trawlers, attacked by 8 aircraft with bombs and M/Gs about 3' East of North Goodwin at 1120/23. ARLEY leaking slightly and D.G. gear damaged. (V.A. Dover 1215/23).
FIREFLY) WARDOUR) WINDWARD HO)	M/S trawlers, attacked by aircraft while sweeping. WARDOUR and WINDWARD HO damaged and returned Sheerness. No casualties. (C. in C., Nore, 2205/23).

Mining.

Mersey	Reference Adty. 1819/22, request consideration of defences against M/L Aircraft by A/A fire, Balloons, and Interceptor Aircraft. (Air Ministry 0001/23 to Fighter Command).
Rosyth	Closed. Magnetic mines. (C. in C., Rosyth 0141/23). Port open (C. in C., Rosyth, 1351/23).
Thames Estuary	Enemy aircraft observed dropping mines at 51:27 N., 1:26 E. (WALPOLE 0148/23).
Arbroath	Magnetic Mine suspected off Arbroath. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0207/23 to ROCHESTER). Sound plot indicates possible enemy aircraft minelaying from Farne Island to Aberdeen, particularly N. of May Island and off Arbroath. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0224/23).
Portsmouth	Port suspected mined. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0424/23 to STURDY).
Liverpool	Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0650/23). Liverpool opened 1015. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1100/23).

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Swansea and Port Talbot	Now open to D.G. Ships. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 0930/23).
Milford Haven	Port closed till further notice. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0954/23). Port open (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1521/23).
Firth of Forth	Area dangerous from Magnetic mines defined. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1453/23).
St. George's Channel	Adty. 1044/22 and my 1818/23. Am still of opinion that Minefield as much handicap to our forces as to enemy forces. Ref. Adty. QZF.14 consider important that Gap should be swept as soon as Sweepers available to ensure our control of passage. (C. in C. W.A. 2329/23).
Mining of the Sound	British Magnetic mining of the Sound appears effective. All Ferries and traffic stopped since 22nd. and 2 German steamers reported mined. (N.A. Stockholm 1835/23 to D.N.I.)

Enemy Intelligence

At 0001/23 in 50:3 N., 3:17 W. 3 small ships size of M.T.Bs (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0200/23).

At 1230/23 in 53:17 N., 4:52 E. 4 small M.Vs about 500 tons on course 240°. (Donibristle, 1525/23).

At 1621/23 unidentified Enemy Unit, probably surface craft, at 57:30 N., 3:0 E. D/F report. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1654/23).

SYSQUEZ	Learn, B.3., this Norwegian Tanker leaves Oslo pm/23rd. bound Trondjhem with 5000 tons aviation spirit. (N.A. Stockholm 1945/23 to D.N.I.)

War Diary

23.7.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Bordeaux

At Quayside one 15,000-ton M.V. with steam up at 2045/23, 13 small M/Vs on W. Quayside and 8 in river opposite. (C. in C., W.A. 2045/23 to 15 Group). At least 26 M.Vs in river and 18 in dock. 25 barges in mid-stream. Photographic Report. (C. in C., W.A. 0150/24).

8 Enemy destroyers and 6 M/Vs camouflaged 2500 tons at 1958/23 in 57:18 N., 4:23 E. Course? 335° speed 10 knots. (Aircraft 224 Sqdn. 2150/23). 6 M/Vs and 3 destroyers at 57:35 N., 3:56 E. course 315° 10 knots, and 5 destroyers widely spread at 57:36 N., 3:44 E. course 305° 14 knots at 2215/23. (Aircraft 224 Sqdn. 2225/23)(C. in C. Rosyth 0042/24 to Adty.)

At 1942/23 an unknown Armed Vessel stationary at 50:0 N., 1:0 W. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 2359/23 to Adty.)

Hague

At 1200/23 a Grey Ship about 5000 tons in Basin either Depot ship or armed transport. Gun platform forward. Aircraft report. (H.Q.B.C. 0232/24).

Treport

At 1642/23, ten miles W. of Treport, one M.T.B. heading suth. (H.Q.B.C. 0232/24).

Calais

At 1850/23 between Dunkirk and Calais 1½ miles off shore, 5 large M/Vs, four stationary and one heading West. (H.Q.B.C. 0232/24).

At 1958/23 in 57:18 N., 4:23 E. 6 M.Vs and 8 destroyers, course 315°, speed 10 knots. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 0015/24 to C. in C., Rosyth).

At 1215/23, 3' off Obrestad, one M/V, 2000 tons, course 180° speed 10 knots. (I.C. 0521/40).

Shipping

Convoy OB.190	Positions (C. in C., W.A. 0843/23).
Convoy FN.28	Arrived 0730/23rd. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0859/23).
Convoy OA.191	Route. (C. in C., W.A. 0842/23).
Convoy SL.39	Route (C. in C., W.A. 0841/23).
Convoy HX.56	Arrived 0645/23. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0911/23).
Convoy WN.3	Intended sailing for Methil at 1030/25. About 28 ships. Request Air escort. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1244/23). Route, (N.C.S.O. Clyde,1715/23).

War Diary

23.7.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Increased Shipping in Convoys	Reference Conference of 19th July in Trade Division, detailed schedule for sailing and escort of OA, OB, HX, and SL. Convoys proposed. (C. in C., W.A. 1313/23 to Adty.)
LE TIGER	Establish A/S patrol off Cape Wrath to protect Convoys. To be called Cape Wrath Patrol. (A.C.O.S. 1234/23 to LE TIGER).
Unescorted Ships OA.188	I share anxiety expressed in your 2257/21, which is not allayed by Adty.'s 2217/22. Some safety might result from use of Sounds of Mull and Islay by unescorted Ships. (C. in C., H.F. 1241/23 to C. in C. NKF. Rosyth). Your 1241/23. Not possible Escort for Coastal portion of OA.188 on 24th but will provide Escort in future between Skerryvore and Clyde. (C. in C., W.A. 2044/23 to C. in C., H.F.).
Air Warnings to Convoys	F.O.I.C. Portland states sometimes possible to warn CE and CW Convoys that Air Attack imminent. Concur with his proposals and consider procedure should be applied to whole Channel Area. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2113/23 to Adty.)
Convoy R.S.5	Route (C. in C., W.A. 2228/22 to Adty.)
Convoy H.G.39	Personnel of Passengers. Sailed 21st July. (F.O.C.N.A. 1430/23).

War Diary

23.7.1940.
Tuesday

WEATHER

Area	Wind	Weather	Visibility
North Sea	W. to N.W. Light	Fair to cloudy	Good. Slight coastal haze.
Horns Reef Dutch Coast	W.N.W. Light to moderate	Fair to cloudy	Mainly Good
S.W. Norway	W. to N.W. Light	Fair to cloudy	Good
Channel	W. Light Backing in Western Channel	Cloudy	Good
Western Approaches	S.S.E. to S. Light	Occasional rain	Moderate to Good.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

EMPIRE DEFIANCE — Broke down at 53° 47' N., 4° 37' W., YORK CITY standing by. (ENCHANTRESS 2117/23 to F.O.C., W.A.)

KOLLSBEY — Refloated off Dunnose and re-grounded at St. Catherines high tide 0200/23. Hoped tow off next spring tide. (C. inC., Portsmouth 2148/23 to Adty.)

War Diary

23.7.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Destroyers for Convoy Escorts

Your 1320/22. Out of the question to spare additional destroyers or escort ships from home waters. (D.O.D. (F), 1246/23).

Italian Aircraft at Majorca

Consul Palma Majorca reports: It is now certain on 18/7 1 Italian reconnaissance aircraft landed near Manacor having run out of fuel. Fuel was supplied and plane left within half hour ends. Aircraft may have been one of those which bombed Gibraltar. (S.O. (1) Gib. 1012/23, Palma Malorca 1600/22) (1014/23)

H.

N.A. Madrid 1325/22. FAULKNOR was bombed in 35° 52' N., 3° 46' W., at 1330/11. 6 bombs probably 250 poun or less, assuming ones dropped on Force H previously were 500 pound. Also please see my 1012 July 23rd last paragraph. (S.O.(1) Gib., 1212/23 to D.N.I.)

TIGRIS

F.O.C. Force H., 1020/23. Propose TIGRIS be instructed to move patrol north of 46° 40' N., by 1200/26 and carry out patrol of Loire until completion of patrol (C. in C., W.A. 1714/23)

South Atlantic

CANBERRA

A.C.N.B. to inform S.N.O. Simonstown date she will arrive at Fremantle and date to sail from Cape. (C. in C., S.A. 1050/23)

COLONIAL

Italian Consul to be removed (A.C.N.S. (F) 1327/23 to C. in C., S.A, C. in C., S.A. 1732/23 to ALCANTARA, VINDICTIVE, BULOLO, DORSETSHIRE, MILFORD, DELHI, MALOJA)

1

War Diary

23.7.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

V.A.A., Flag. — As FURIOUS and ARK ROYAL are unlikely to be working together for some time as as ILLUSTRIOUS and EAGLE will both be in Eastern Mediterranean it is proposed that V.A.A. should shift his flag from ARK ROYAL to ILLUSTRIOUS when these ships meet (1st. S.L., 0300/23)

Force "H" — My 2356/22. Ships unable to sail owing to fog. Operation postponed. (F.O., Force H., 0914/23).

Operation "Hurry" — Admty. 2032/22. Examination of Le Verdon anchorage indicates suitability for aircraft torpedo attack. Bordeaux only suitable for bomb attack, which it is suggested could be carried out more effectively from U.K. V.A.A. would prefer to concentrate effort on Le Verdon. ARK ROYAL sails (date of attack) (Earliest date for commencement of Operation "Hurry") F.O., Force H., 1020/23)

SURCOUF — Your 1230/22. Question already under examination, but it is improbably that early action will be possible. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O.C.N.A., 1021/23).

Battle Fleet — My 1903/22. Battle Fleet will be to westward of Crete on 28/7 and 29/7 which should act as a diversion for destroyers. (C. in C., Med., 1205/23).

War Plans "Hurry" — 1st S.L. 2040/23 to C. in C., Med., C. in C., Med., 1205/23. See Mediterranean Volume.

Corinth Canal — C. in C., Med. 2019/23. See Mediterranean Volume.

War Diary

23.7.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Troop Convoys

Your 1232/21. The urgency for arrival of -these troops in the Middle East does not justify the passage of W.2 and W.3 through the Red Sea. War Office are in agreement. (D. O.D. (F), 0039/23, to C. in C., E.I.).

Overdue Ships

My 0456/22. Ships overdue. Name of first ship is KENSENDINE. (C. in C., E.I. 0338Z/23)

PALESTINIAN PRINCE
MUNCASTER CASTLE

Your 1140/22. Intend to sail PALESTINIAN PRINCE and MUNCASTER CASTLE as soon as latter arrives to overhaul B N 2 before Singapore. Escort CERES and PARRAMATTA as far as 021° N., Request details of PARRAMATTA's H/A armament. (S.N.O. Red Sea 0756/23 to C. in C., E.I.)

Raider

Your 0355/23. H.M.S. DANAE patrolling in Achin Head but will return to Penang if desired.

(ii) Raider will probably not have remained in same area and, if she has, there is none of our ships there as I have diverted DARDNIA and CITY OF PERTH off their direct route.

Dispositions
DANAE

(iii) I therefore feel it would be better if DANAE returned to Penang now for fuel and then escorted BANGALORE and ALIPORE bothe contain large stocks of ammunition for C. in C., Mediterranean, to about 083°E

(iv) If you can still spare her, I would like her then to return to Achin Head to meet ORONTES and escort her to Colombo. Otherwise I have nothing available to escort or cover these 3 ships since HECTOR is required for cover of troops ex W 1 and onward escort of ORONTES.

(v) I have ordered DANAE to Penang to arrive 25/7.

(C. in C., E.I. 1126Z/23 to C. in C., China)

War Diary

23.7.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

CARAIBE

My 0800/17. French Admiralty insist CARAIBE not to return to China Station in spite of Admiral Decoux's protest to them that he has promised this. Subject to approval of Adm. Decoux, French C of S., intends to keep CARAIBE at Madagascar for about two weeks and then to recall her to Saigon under pretext that she needs urgent repairs. (L.O., Saigon, 0150/23, to C. in C., China.)

French Trade

My 0509Z/18. Admiral Decoux now requests permission for French ships MARECHAL JOFFRE and DARTAGNAN to trade on China Station visiting British ports and guaranteeing that they will not leave the station. Intend to approve unless I hear to contrary within 48 hours. (C. in C., China to Admty., 0255Z23)

DANAE

At present patrolling in Achin Head area. Orders for patrol until necessary to return Colombo for fuel. After this, I would like her to return to Penang carrying out sweep en route if desired. (C. in C., China, to C. in C., E.I., 0355Z/23)

CITY OF BAGDAD Leakage of Information

In view of priority of cargo being held in Malaya, suggest retainers, Ellerman & Bucknall, be advised to cancel her berthing with Singapore agents or arrange substitute This will enable local arrangements to be made without divulging loss of ship. Consider this desirable permanent procedure to avoid disquiet and speed up cargo. (C. in C., China, 0523Z/23 to Admty.)

CITY OF BAGHDAD N.O. i/c Penang reports plain language cables between Lourenco Marques Forwarding Company and MACALISTER since 26/6 giving reports of names and date of arrival Penang appears a possible source of leakage.

Plain language message of 19/7 similar to the above permits calculation of position on direct route of "CITY OF PERTH"

(C. in C., China 0221Z/23 to C. in C., E.I. C. in C., S.A. etc.,)

War Diary

23.7.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Convoy TC 6

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, DUCHESS OF YORK, SAMARIA, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, ANTONIA, BATORY SOBIESKY escorted by REVENGE and EMERALD sailed p.m. /23. Route. Expected time of arrival. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 12134/23)

Raider

R.O. Ciudad Trujillo reports (1401/23) results of conversation of crews of BRITISH PETROL, DAVISIAN on board raider (i) since sinking BRITISH PETROL raider twice met supply ship (ii) unable to describe the supply ship is kept below (iii) Raider uses fuel very sparingly (iv) believed that raider out since March (v) also on board two non English who were kept apart believed Master Chief Engineer of Scandinavian Ship. (S.O. (1) Kingston, Jamaica 1801/23)

Convoy HX 60

Sailing telegram (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1337/23)

Australia

CANBERRA

Admty. 0119/21. Concur in both proposals (A.C.N.B., 02312/23)

War Diary

23.7.1940.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

PELAKOTIS	S.O.(1) Callas reports still unable to obtain oil, crew discontented, ship may sail south shortly (S.O. (1) Kingston, Jamaica 1516/23)
LUVSEE INGO	Arrived Zelenika 18/7 left Zelenika for Trieste 19/7 (S.O. (1) Alexandria 1506/23)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ANTONIETTA	arrived Philadelphia 22/7 from Norfolk and Baltimore via inland waterways (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2143/23)
PERLA	just arrived Spit to load bunker coal and will probably proceed south to load bauxite (S.O. (1) Alexandria 1506/23)

War Diary

23.7.1940.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

LADY MOSTYN — (305 tons) sunk by mine in Mersey 170° 0.7 Red Buoy 2 cables at 0415 clear of deep channel. Port closed. Crew probably 6, no survivors. Channel is being swept daily. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1230/23, I.C. 0520/40)

Submarines Reported

Estimated dispositions — 2 in Western Approaches or farther South No reliable reports from which their whereabouts can be deduced. (D.D.I.C. 1207/23)

1400 — Periscope reported 21 miles 041° Spurn Pt. (C. in C., Nore 1501/23)

1630 — Torpedo track reported in 55° 26' N., 12° 55' W., (WALKER 1804/23)

2000 — By D/F 58° 0' N., 3° 20' E Unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 2037/23)

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported

Methods adopted by Italian U-Boats (D. A/S W. 2111/23)

War Diary

24.7.40
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Your 1756/14. Manning of these guns by Army cannot be undertaken at present. Naval personnel cannot be made available from Depots. (A.C.N.S.H.1444/24to A.C.O.S.

Shetlands. Minimum military requirements necessary to hold the Islands (F.O.C.S.1459/24 to 1st Lord)

Greenock. F.O.I.C.Greenock's 1041/24. Imperative that A/A Gun Defences be provided as soon as possible. (C. in C.W.A.2220/24 to Adty.)

Burning Oil Fuel and Petrol as Defence Adty. 2237/21. Proposed to conduct trials in Loch Goyle. Request early report whether any local objection. (D. of L.D.1613/24 to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

A/A Defences of Clyde N.L.O. Turnhouse states enemy A/C unmolested by Fighters or guns do considerable damaged. It is thought that a very small Fighter Force at Prestwick or Abbotsinch might have considerable success (C. in C.Rosyth 1519/24 to Adty.)

Dover A/A Defences A/A Barrage fire relatively ineffective. Suggestions for effective barrage over Harbour in which U.P. batteries could join. (V.A. Dover 1857/24 to Adty.)

Fighter A/C Your 1557/17, (re. revision of Rules of Approach and Recognition of Figher A/C.) We have no remarks to make. (ANTACOR 1900/24 to Adty.)

Movements.

Humber Force Keep steam at half an hours notice till further orders. (C. in C.Nore 0243/24)

Home Fleet. My 2327. Units have reverted to four hours notice for steam. (C. in C.H.F.0931/24 to Adty

1st D.F. Your 1253/21. Approved for 1st D.F. to operate from Portsmouth. (A.C.N.S.H.1136/24 to V.A.Dover)

HUNT-Class Destroyers Hunt class destroyers to be stationed in narrow waters of Channel and East Coast.

As KEPPEL, ACTIVE and DOUGLAS join C. in C. Home Fleet each ship is to relieve a Hunt class destroyer which should then be sailed for Dover.

The next two Hunt class on completion of working up are to be exchanged with two "A" class from Nore as arranged between C.in C. H.F. and C.in C.Nore. (A.C.N.S.H.1259/24)

War Diary

24.7.40
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements(ctd.)

S/M's.

Positions and movements for the next 24 hours at 0600/25. In Area A. TRIDENT, TRITON, SNAPPER, H.50 H.28 as in my 1743/23 H.31. N.L.V.D.3040 proceeding to Blyth on surface. Thames J.Z.L.Z.3500. NARWHAL G.B.M.F.3000 proceeding on surface to D.H.X.G.1613. PORPOISE leaves Immingham 1500 for Flamborough Head thence North Eastward proceeding on surface. (V.A.S.1714/24)

Position in area B for next twenty four hours at 0600/25. TIGRIS vicinity K.Q.Q.G.4130 moving to vicinity J.B.E.K.1050. CACHELOT escorted by LORD HAILSHAM proceeding to Rothesay. Expected time of arrival 0800/26 (V.A.S.1713/24)

Operations

Operation P.H.

A Patrol to be established during dark hours by 70-ft. M.T.B's off Mouths of Maas and Schelde to report any enemy craft emerging from those rivers. Four Patrol Areas. Usual patrol will be 2 M.T.B's. (C. in C.Nore 1110/24 to S.O.M.T.B's. Felixstowe)

My 1110/24. Operation P.H. is to commence tonight. Patrols A and B. (C. in C.Nore 1111/24 to S.O.M.T.B's. Felixstowe) Negative operation P.H. (C. in C.Nore 2147/24)

E-Boats

6 E-Boats bearing 125° Grisnez. Am engaging. Require immediate assistance. (M.T.B.70 0210/24) No damage or casualties to M.T.B.70. (V.A.Dover 1253/24 to Adty.)

2 E-Boats, course 135°, at 51° 15' N., 2°50' E. (A/C. of 500 Sqdn. 0300/24 to Chatham) Attacked with bombs. No hits (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0610/24)

Ships attacked

MENKES

(French) repatriating French Naval personnel) torpedoed by E-Boat probably 15 miles from start Point about 2315. Position doubtful (C. in C.W.A.2332/24, Hiton Radio 2224/24) WOLVERINE, VISCOUNT to search to eastward of St. Catherines (C. in C.W.A.2348/24) MENKES was attacked by one E-Boat. After giving 5 minutes warning one Torpedo was fired and later boats were gunned. (WOLVERINE 0958/25 to C. in C.W.A.) Attacked at 2315/24 at 50°15' N., 2°10' W. Destroyers have landed about 1000 survivors at Portland (C. in C. Portsmouth 1225/25 to Adty.)

War Diary

24.7.40
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

Ships attacked

MEKNES (Ctd.)

Position now reported 195° St. Albans. 10 miles. SHIKARI and SABRE leaving Spithead now. Trawler ELLESMERE also searching. (C.in C.W.A.0006/25 to WOLVERINE)

2 Motor A/S Boats and one M.L.proceeding from Portland to MEKNES. (C. in C.W.A.0019/25 to WOLVERINE)

My 0006. Latest reported position 165° Portland Bill 6 miles. (C.in C.W.A.0051/25 to WOLVERINE)

About 1000 survivors in 4 destroyers. Expect arrive 1000 (WOLVERINE 0755/25 to N.O.I.C. Portland)

Return with despatch sweeping through where MEKNES sank. Fighting cover arranged. (C.inC. Portsmouth 1136/26 to SABRE)

As far as can be ascertained, MEKNES sailed with 99 Naval Officers and 1080 Naval Ratings. Crew of ship was 9 Officers and 90 Ratings, also 2 Women and 1 child. This leaves Missing 9 Officers and 370 Men. Disposal of survivors set forth. (F.O.I.C.Portland 1903/25 to Adty.)

It is essential that full details of the attack on MEKNES should be obtained from witnesses and transmitted to Admiralty as soon as possible. Full details are required of any casualties caused by gunfire on the boats. (1st S.L.1254/25 to F.O.I.C.Portland)

Your 1254/25 Attack on MEKNES, Fully illuminated searchlight on Flag, French colours painted both sides, commenced at 2230 when O O.W.heard Motor Engines and observed path of a vessel. Machine gun fire commenced on ship which stopped immediately, blew whistle to indicate stopped, and made signal "Who are you"? No reply received and subsequently ship flashed name and nationality several times. Machine gunning continued followed by heavier fire from small calibre gun. Port Boats were holed and at 2255 ship was torpedoed aft, slight explosion only but at 2305 vessel sank. Officers convinced attack was made by E-Boats. Fire was not opened on boats and no evidence that any firing took place after ship was torpedoed. As it is stated that several boats made for French Coast under sail, total casualties unknown approx. 350 reported missing of 1000 landed 120 officers and 41 ratings are in Hospital. (F.O.I.C.Portland 1540/25)

War Diary

24.7.40
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS (ctd.)

Submarines

TIGRIS — C. in C.W.A.1714/23. (proposing that TIGRIS move to Patrol off Loire). Concur. V.A.S. requested to comply. (D.O.D.H.1212/24 to C. in C.W.A.) Now no need to move TIGRIS patrol. (D.O.D.H.0011/25 to R.A.S.)

Air

British Air Activity

At 58°6' N., 3°18' E. A/C attacked one destroyer with torpedoes, estimate one hit. (A/C of H.M.S.? 0251/24 to Hatston)

Attack on Dale Railway (Bergen) — Railway not reached. One Patrol Boat sunk in Fiords. 2 Escort Vessels attacked at 61°13' N 5°3' E. but not hit. (Hatston 0801/22 Recd. 0056/24)

Soviet Tugs attacked. — At 0455/24 in 52°45' N., 3°39' E. an A/C of 16 Group bombed 3 Soviet Tugs towing a Floating Crane and Platform like a workshop. One tug named MANTIUTNA (C. in C.Nore 0835/24 to Adty.) At 0602 in 53° N., 4°10' E. Course 360° 4 knots, A/C attacked the same with bombs; no hits, one near miss. Also 1200 rounds M/G. Hits unknown. (A.C.H.Q.Chatham 0846/24 to Adty.)

Escort vessel damaged. — At 0251/24 in 58°6' N., 3°18' E., A/C attacked with Torpedoes, one camouflaged M/V and 4 escort vessels of KOENIGEN LUIS type. One torpedo exploded near one escort vessel. (Hatston 1105/24)

Air-Raids, 21 and 25 June and 1st and 4th July. — Report of results at Hamburg and Kiel. (N.A.Belgrade 1200/24 to Adty.)

Oil Storage Farms at Cherbourg. — Description and proposed destruction by six A/C on night 24/25. (H.Q.C.C.1540/24)

War Diary

24.7.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Air-Enemy Air Activity

Convoy MAYDAY C.E. 7. Eastbound	Help. 0800 Goodwin Fork Buoy, speed 7 knots. Five enemy aircraft. (TOTEM 0840 and 0859/24)
KINGSTON GALENA	A/S Trawler. Sunk between S. Foreland and Dover at 1120/24 (V.A. Dover 1207/24)
RODINO	M/S Trawler. Sunk by aircraft between S. Foreland and Dover at 1120/24 (V.A.Dover /24)
WOLVES	A/S Trawler. Seriously damaged by aircraft between S. Foreland and Dover, at 1120/24 (V.A.Dover 1207/24)
SACN	A/S Trawler. Slightly damaged by aircraft between S. Foreland and Dover at 1120/24 (V.A. Dover 1207/24)
FLEMING	M/S Trawler. Attacked by 4 Dive Bombers and sunk at 1730/24 in position X. Only 3 survivors out of crew of 22. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1037/25)
Convoy FS 29 Southbound	Attacked by 20 aircraft at 1230/24 off N. Foreland. No damage. (I.C. 25/7)
ALERT	Trinity House Vessel bombed and machine gunned at 2025/24 near South Goodwin L.V. Slight damage and 6 minor casualties. (I.C. 25/7)

Mining

Liverpool	Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0225/24) reopened 1430/24. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1440/24) Magnetic Mines laid between 0155 and 0305/24. 6 mines exploded by LL sweep Formby L.V. machine gunned (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1350/24)
E.Coast Scotland	2 parachute mines dropped on land near Drem, Firth of Forth. Probable minelaying during night 23/24 between Seaham Harbour and Morey Firth (C. in C., Rosyth 0226/24)

/Ports closed....

War Diary

24.7.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining- Contd.

Ports closed	Kyles of Bute, Newhaven, Maryport, Silloth, Workington, Fishguard and Milford Haven from sunset. (I.C. 25/7)
Sunderland	Port closed. (C. in C., Rosyth 0655/24) Port open (F.O.I.C., Tyne 1323/24)
Harwich	2 magnetic mines detonated at 51° 50' N., 1° 26'E by LL sweep at 0640/24 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1323/24)
Swansea	Swansea and Port Talbot open to all ships (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 2130/24)
Milford Haven	Port closed till further orders (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1051/24) Port opened (F.O.I.C Milford Haven 1548/24) 2 possible Mines dropped last night, one exploded today. Port closed from sunset tonight till sweeping finished to-morrow morning. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1957/24 to C. in C., W.A.)
Falmouth	Port now open. Vessels pass N. of Old Well Shoal. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1100/24)
Plymouth	2 Magnetic Mines exploded (I.C. 25/7)
Mersey	3 Magnetic Mines exploded (I.C. 25/7)
Belfast	Mines laid by aircraft in Belfast Lough last night. Port is open. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1230/24)
North Sea	Indications of Enemy Minefield 100' W. of the Naze. (V.A.S. 1506/24)

War Diary

24.7.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

At 56° 6' N., 3° 18' E., 3 destroyers and 1 Auxiliary Vessel course 130°, 12 knots. (A/C of H.M.S.? 0251/24 to Hatston)

At 57° 53'N 1° 33' E., and unknown ship course 145° speed 10 knots. (A/C 269 Sqdn. 0050/24)

At 0320/24 at 042° Cromer 30', eight ships believed Destroyers steering N.W. at 20 knots (H.Q.B.C. 2212/25)

8 destroyers, 5 M/V's, 1 S/M., at 57° 10' N., 5° 48'E., course 110° speed 10 knots. (A/C 233 Squdn. 0905/24) (Donibristle 1130/24) (C. in C., Rosyth 1808/24)

Trouville — 10 small vessels in harbour, fishing type. (Chatham 1925/24)

Havre — 7 ot 8 Barges moored in harbour, no large vessels indide. Tug outside moving in. (Chatham 1925/24)

1 large M/V and about 5 sloops, speed 5 knots (A/C 220 Sqdn. 2010/24)

Trondheim — 1 large Warship and 4 destroyers in harbour A/C report. (C. in C., Rosyth 2112/24 to Adty.)

At 2106/24 Unknown enemy unit, probably surface craft bore Scarborough 007/3 D/F bea bearing. (D.D.I.C. 2140/24)

Bordeaux — No sign of Invasion activity at Bordeaux. Adty. Telegram 2032/22 cancelled. (1st S.L. 2355/24 to V.A.A..

St. Valery — At 1513/24 three ships 1000 to 2000 tons. A/C report (THI 1820/25)

Dieppe — At 1600/24, three ships. A/C report (THI 1820/25)

Berren — 12 M/V's and small craft in harbour. (I.C. 25/7)

War Diary

24.7.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Coastal Convoys — Admty. 1337/22. Propose continue to run convoys in an irregular 4 day cycle till traffic diminishes. 9 to 12 A/S Trawlers working in groups of 3 will be required. Losses today suggest heavy casualties inevitable, and propse much larger proportion of S.Coast Traffic be sent by road or rail. (C. in C., Nore, 1634/24 to Admty.)

Convoy HG 38 B — Arrived 1630/24. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2144/24)

Convoy O.B.190 — Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1440/24 to Admty.)

KYLE FISHER — With valuable cargo, joins HN 30 at Tyne. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1441/21 to Lowestoft)

Convoy HX 60 — Amended Sailing Telegram (DTD 1616/24)

0500 — WEATHER

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
N.Sea (Western)	Southerly Light or Moderate, S.E. in North.	Moderate or Good.	Wind veering West Temporary impr vement.
Channel and Western Approaches	W.S.W. Mod. or Light.	Good	Wind backing slow ly. Vis. deterio r ating.
Horns Reef Dutch Coast	S.W. or variable light	Good or Moderate	Similar
S.W. Norway	Wind N.W. of variable Light	Moderate or good	Wind becoming S.E.

War Diary

24.7.40
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ULSTER MONARCH } Re sailing and escort (F.O.C. N.A.1334A/24)

A.A.Guns. Re. transporting in VALIANT (A.C.N.S.(F) 1933/24 to F.O.C.N.A.

South Atlantic

BULOLO, PRETORIA CASTLE } Orders (escorting S.L.41 and S.L.F.41) (C. in C.S.A.1228/24)

COLONIAL Your 1732/23. I have Bianchi (DORSETSHIRE 1800Z/24 to C. in C.S.A.)

CANBERRA Reply to C. in C.S.A.1050/23 re date of arrival at Fremantle (A.C.N.B.1030Z/24)

Tanker Reported that tnaker name unknown passed through ? Magallanes 22/7 east bound. Similar report in Buenos Aires newspaper (S.O.(1) Monte Video 0932/24)

French Cameroons. Re. its future (DRAGON 2205/24)

Mediterranean

CAPETOWN CALEDON CAPETOWN and CALEDON are not pulling their weight out here owing to inadequate A/A armament and lack of speed. They can be surrendered if they can be usefully employed elsewhere, CALEDON in about 14 days time on completion of short refit, CAPETOWN in about one week. I would prefer that they departed eastward as it would require a fleet operation to get them past Malta.
(C. in C.Med.0933/24 to Adty.)

ARK ROYAL Cancel Adty. 0300/23. V.A.A. will continue to fly his flag in ARK ROYAL (1st S.L.2002/24 to C.in C.Medt.etc.)

Air.

Balloon barrage Alexandria. Your 0125/11/4. Request information re provision. of balloon barrage at Alexandria. An additional reason for providing this form of defence is to protect the fleet in harbour from torpedo aircraft attack, a form of attack which can by no means be excluded. Only a few balloons would be required for this.
(C. in C.Med. 2245/24 to Adty.)

A/A ships. C. in C. East Indies ?1828/22.suggest this question be reviewed after passage of B.N.2. In my view it is unsound to hold skilled anti-aircraft forces to face a problematical air attack in Red Sea when a strong scale (2 corrupt groups) attack is actually operative

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Air.

A/A ships (Ctd.) in Mediterranean ships can always be sent back if pendulum swings the other way. I suggest therefore that H.M.S. CARLISLE at least should now join Mediterranean. (C. in C.Med.1321/24. to Adty.)

Explosive bullets found in Italian A/C shot down. Loaded in belts with incendiaries and ordinary lead bullets. (Governor Malta 1412/23, W.O. 2110/24)

Raids on Malta 3 raids today, at 0250 and 0400 about 40 bombs dropped;no casualties;slight damage to civil property, 0850 by fighters, one claimed shot down by Sunderland (V.A.MALTA 2137/24)

Shares for Skuas, Rocs, Fulmers. In event of additional carrier plus one T.S.R. squadron and one fighter squadron being based in Eastern Mediterranean (C. in C.Med.1525/24)

Raid on Haifa. At 08550/24. By 8 Savoia bombers. Shell installations badly hit; 3 bombs in town, approximately 35 killed (N.O.I.C. Haifa 1030/24)

Intelligence

Danube M.B/s.

1. Twelve fast M.B's armed with one 26 m.m. gun, are stationed at Linz. The L.L.MONITOR, formerly MASARYK, and one other MONITOR L.L. now in Winter port. B.2.

2. Hungarian minelayers with full complement of mines are active in (?) sector of the river between Ulu and Mohatch. B.2. (N.A.Belgrade 1115/24)

Augusta Sunderland patrols (between Sicily and Greece report one destroyer in Augusta only (V.A. Malta 2137/24)

East Indies

R.A.F. Stores Re unsatisfactory arrangements for shipping of R.A.F. stores East of Capetown (H.Q.M.E. 0716z/22 to C. in C.E.I.)

Armament stores for E. Mediterranean in MUNCASTER CASTLE to be transferred to PALESTINIAN PRINCE at Aden. Former ship to sail for Bombay for which port she has 7000 tons of cargo.

PARAMATTA Armament. (C. in C.E.I.0446z/24 to S.N.O. Red Sea in reply to his 0756/23)

War Diary

24.7.40.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (ctd.)

Shipping

Governor Ceylon has received circular maritime telegram number 36 from S. of S. for Colonies cancelling previous orders regarding Norwegian, Dutch, Polish and neutral shipping bound for French ports. Telegram proceeds that revised instructions for shipping in this respect were issued by Adty. on 20/7 and particulars should be obtained from Naval Authorities. Latest Adty. messages received by me on this subject Are: British Allied ships 1821/5. Netherlands ships 2246/4. French ships 2319/16. Request elucidation. (C. in C.E.I. 1026Z/24.to Adty.

Your 1026/24. Circular maritime telegram number 36 was despatched by Colonial Office in error on receipt of a copy of C. in C.S.A's signal 1904/19. Colonial Office are being asked to cancel their telegram. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2049/25 to C. in C.E.I.)

China

BORINGIA — My 0425/21. French C. in C. has also protested at requisitioning of Danish S.S.BORINGIA (C. in C.China 0507Z/24)

EMPRESS OF JAPAN — Re. Cdre. Hong Kong 0335/22. Asking whether sailing time can be advanced or time on passage shortened etc. (D. of S.T. 0031/24 to Cdre. Hong Kong.)

Dispositions
S.S.BANGALORE
S.S.ALIPORE
DAUNTLESS
DANAE
ORONTES
R.F.A. PEARLEAF — Reply to C. in C.E.I. 1126/23. (C. in C.China 0505Z/24)

A.M.C's to be withdrawn.

1. There are very urgent requirements for A.M.C's on E.I.Station, on S.A.Station and for establishment of Western Patrol to extend economic blockade to whole of western seaboard of Europe and North Africa. It is proposed, therefore, that the 3 A.M.C's should now be withdrawn from your command.

2. Unless youhave very strong reasons for wishing to retain them,request you will signal proposals for sailing them to join C. in C.E.I. as first step, any urgent refitting or docking being carried out prior to leaving your station

3. Further instructions as regards future transfer of any A.M.C's from E.I. Station to other commands will be given to C. in C.E.I. KENIMBIA, having Australian crew, will remain on E.I.Station. The proposal given in your 0829/22 that this ship shou d call at Singapore prior to joining East Indies Station is approved (A.C.N.S.(F) 1031/24 to C.in C.China)

War Diary

24.7.40
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

T.C.7. — Ships for, and for battalion for Newfoundland to relieve Black Watch. (H.S.H.Q.Ottawa 1921/24)

Van Kins Bergen — Orders (C. in C.A.W.I. 0941/24)

Australia

A.C.N.B.1030Z/24 — See South Atlantic.

Troops — Re. despatch of 6500;31,000; and N.Z.3rd Echelon. (A.C.N.B.0204/24 to Adty.)

War Diary

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Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

BRUGES — Belgian, 4984 tons, left Monte Video 29 June is overdue at Freetown since 18/7. (D.S.224)

ALPHARD — Dutch, 5483 tons, left Buenos Aires 4 July is overdue at Freetown since 18/7. (D.S.324)

MENRO — Norwegian, 1376 tons, left Selangor 14 July id overdue at Bangkok since 18/7. (D.S.324)

War Diary

24.7.40
Wednesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

REKUM — Vessel resembling REKUM sighted 20/7 in 28°35' N., 24°7' W., by REFAST. Vessel apparently painted grey throughout, tonnage 8000 (N.C.S.O.St. Vincent 1119/24 to Adty., F.O.C.N.A. 1031/25)

CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN — Departure appears to be imminent (Las Palmas 1800/24, F.O.C.N.A.1031/25)

?WESER — A press report from Mexico City states that a 9000 ton German ship arrived in a Mexican port 23/7 from Santa Elena, Costa Rica. This may be WESER (9179 tons) which left Punta Arenas, Costa Rica, on 11/7 and was reported to be bound for Manzanilla Mexico (I.C.0521/40)

KARSEN — A press report from Shanghai states that a thousand ton merchant ship called KARSTEN and flying the German flag has been sunk off Ning Po, presumably by Chinese artillery. A ship of this name is known to be carrying on coastal trade under German ownership. (I.C.0521/40)

LARISSA — arrived Istanbul 23/7 (I.C.0521/40)

KIELHEIM — reported 0230/23 that she had run aground off Jade. Tug SEEBAER was sent to her assistance at 0330. (I.C.0522/40)

BARMBEK, FALKENBERG — Were ordered to Danzig to unload 24/7 (I.C.0522/40)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ENDERTA — Japanese officers observed on board. Report she proceeds to Nanking 24/7 to load coal for Shanghai indicates possibility of use of ships in Yangtse. (C. in C.China 0215/24 to N.A. Tokyo.)

MONGIOIA — Has proceeded from Gulverston Roads to Houston where she is expected to discharge (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1403/24)

ANTONIO LIMENGELLI — Left Maranham, Brazil 18/6 is now believed still to be in a Brazilian port, probably Pernambuco (I.C.0521/40)

War Diary

24.7.40
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships attacked.

TRIO — Finnish, 1451 tons, Sundsvall to Germany with timber, reported sunk near Borkum probably by mine. Master severely unjured, crew of 19 saved. (Finnish Broadcast from Lahti 24/7)

Submarines reported.

2105 — Submerged S/M 260° 12 miles 61°20' N., 1°36' E course 310° (A/C 2105/24) Probably outward bound. ANTONY, AMAZON to search (R.A.(D) H.F.1055/25)

2205 — by A/C in 60°55' N., 0°53' E. (Same as 2105 above) Correct position is 60°55' N., 0°53' E. S/M was on surface. A/C will leave Sullum Voe at first light to search. (C.in C.Rosyth 0208/25)

2135 — Submerged S/M 59°25' N., 0°45' W. steering 260° (R.A.(D) H.F. 2240/24, A/C 2256/24, 2135/24, C. in C.Rosyth 0208/25)

1255 — by Walrus A/C 15 miles due N. Lossiemouth at p.s. depth (C. in C.Rosyth 1336/24 ARROW, ACHATES, Proceeding to hunt (R.A.(D) H.F. 1421/24, ARROW 1430/24)

0735 — T.B.D's merchant ships and 1 U-boat reported by A/C 57°18' N., 5°25' E. course 170° (I.C.0521/40)

1931 — 50°30' N., 10° W. Position indefinite (I.C.0522/40)

South Atlantic

N.C.S.O. Magallanes reports 1200/22 D.4.report sighting S/M off Punta Arenas and press reports that signal station Delgada Point sighted submarine 22/7. We cannot confirm this. (S.O.(1) Montevideo 0932/24) Further enquiries being made (S.O.(1) Freetown 0809/25)

Submarines attacked

2113 — A/C tanker S/M in 60°55' N., 0°53' E., No visible result (I.C.0522/40)

War Diary

25.7.40
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

More Command. Air patrols reduced owing to low visibility. All available ships keep steam at half hours notice. (C. in C.More 0520/25) Revert to normal notice for steam. (C. in C.More 0845/25 to Humber, Harwich, Sheerness, Yarmouth, Etc.)

Co-ordination Conference will be held at 1600/26 to discuss co-ordination of action in event of invasion. Chiefs of Staff, Vice-Chiefs of Statt, and C. in C's of the Tree Services will attend. (V.C.N.S.1103/25 to C. in C's.)

Shetlands. Your 1459/24 and 1517/24. We are taking up with War Office question of increasing garrison. Other requests under consideration (1st S.L.1122/25 to A.C.S.).

Burning oil as invasion defence Adty. 2237/21 and 1613/24. Loch Goil quite unsuitable. Propose Loch Striven, where no local objections. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1150/25 to Adty.)

My 1250/23. Boiler completed. Ships will have steam for 2½ hours notice daily, and for half hours notice from 2130 to 0400 each night (CARDIFF 1550/25 to C. in C.Nore.)

Anti-boat devices Adty's. 2052/3 July. Not considered these can be usefully used in Bristol Channel owing to Tides. (N.O.I.C.Cardiff 1830/25 to Adty.)

A/A fire at Dover Request your views on V.A.Dover 1857/24. (A.C.H.S.H.1844/25 to Air Ministry).

Destroyers at Plymouth Consider that for anti-invasion duties a minimum of four destroyers must be retained at Plymouth. (C. in C.W.A.1852/25 to Adty.)

Cruiser in Clyde Considered necessary that an 8-inch Cruiser or large 6-inch Cruiser should always be available at Clyde to cover N. and S. Approaches to Ireland. (1st S.L.2148/25 to C. in C.H.F.)

Movements.

S/M's Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/26 in area A. NARWHAL DNXG 1613 TRIDENT STATLANDET TRITON QSMF 1020 SNAPPER PCMF 5025 THAMES PCMF 2030 proceeding submerged North of Q.Z.X.143 to T.G.T.A.4550 PORPOISE RQWT 4020 proceeding on surface to P.C.T.A. 4618 thence diving by day to R.Q.L.Z.5817. H.28 in H. one and two H.50.C.P.S.C.5555 H.31 on surface due Blyth 1100 26th July. URSULA leaves Rosyth 0700 unescorted on surface due Blyth 1900. (VA.S.1723/25)

War Diary

25.7.40
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

WESTON anchored E. of Inchkeith East gate to destroy enemy A/C attempting to lay Mines. (C. in C.Rosyth 1225/25)

Iceland

2-pdr. guns sent Reykjavik were for Coast Defence only and are unsuitable for A/A work overland. They belong to mobile Naval Base Defence organisation and, as no longer required Reykjavik, request their return next convoy. (War Office 2055/25 to Alabaster, Reykjavik)

E-Boats

Attack on 9 E-boats BOREAS BRILLIANT damaged.

2 columns of 4 E-Boats sweeping Northward in line abreast with 2 more following. Position 2' W., of Gris Nez at 1300/25. Observed again at 1530/25. PRU report (047.1637/25 to N.I.D.) sighted again at 1655/25, course 180°, speed 20 to 25 knots. (A.C.H.Q.Chatham 1915/25)

BRILLIANT, BORKAS, and 2 M.T.B's sent to intercept and engage. Enemy retired under smoke screen, but were engaged for 15 minutes, damage unknown. BRILLIANT and BOREAS heavily dive-bombed while withdrawing and a direct hit on BRILLIANT. (V.A.Dover 1931/25 to Adty.) Approximate casualties in BOREAS, 15 dead, 16 seriously wounded, 13 slightly wounded. No casualties in BRILLIANT (V.A.Dover 2314/25)

Boulogne. At 1300/25, probably 4 E-Boats. (P.I.U.2245/25)

East Coast Indications of E-Boat activity off East Coast. (N.O.I.C.Harwich 2357/25)

N. of Walcheren. At 0325/25 one E-Boat in 51°38' N., 3°37' E. (I.C.0523/40)

Convoy F.S.31 attacked At 2205/25 convoy F.S.31 attacked by E-Boat 10' N., of Cromer (I.C.0523/40)

Air

British Air Activity

At 0645/25 in 56°6' N., 7°45' E. A/C attacked one fishing smack. No hits. (Donibristle 1050/25)

At 1620/25 in 58°40' N., 5°10' E. A/C bombed one Norwegian M/V course 350, speed 8 knots. Probably damaged (Donibristle 1945/26)

At 1615/25, 22' S.W. of Egersund, 3 M/V's of 2000 tons, course 210° nationality unknown (I.C.0523/40)

War Diary

25.7.40
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British Air Activity (Ctd.)

Marston Lighthouse — Bombed at 1730/25. Lantern-top and storehouse damaged. (Donibristle 2030/25)

Enemy Air Activity

BRILLIANT, BOREAS — Bombed and damaged off Gris Nez. (See E-Boat section)

F.S.Convoy — One A/C at 54°43' N., 1°3' W., odd-numbered F.S.Convoy. (WOLFHOUND 0425/25)

EMPIRE HERCULAN — Bombed at 1001/25 when 5' S.W. of Portland. No damage. (I.C.0523/40)

Dover — At 1220/25 about 16 A/C attacked Dover. Bombs dropped in or close to harbour. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A.Dover 1254/25 to Adty.)

2 Enemy A/C shadowing me course 015°. My position 51°10' N. 4°45' W. (DIANA 1340/25 to Devils Point W/T)

Coastal convoy — Convoy attacked at 1458/25 at 51°5' N., 1°19' E by 40 to 50 A/C and 2 M/V's 500 to 700 tons sunk. Attacked again at 1600/25 at 51° N., 1°10' E. and 1 M/V set on fire and 1 damaged and turned for Dungeness. Third attack at 1635/25 by 4 or 5 bombers with fighter escort, and HENRY MOON sunk and one M/V damaged. Six Spitfires arrived too late. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1900/25) CORHAVEN, LEO, and POLGRANGE sunk off Dover, NEWMINSTER, HODDER, GRONLAND and TAMWORTH damaged, SUMMITY damaged and beached

C.W.S.
HENRY MOON
CORHAVEN
LEO
POLGRANGE
PORTSLADE Sunk.
NEWMINSTER
HODDER
GRONLAND
TAMWORTH
SUMMITY Damaged

off Dover. (V.A.Dover 1742/25 to Adty.)

My 1742/25. PORTSLADE and HENRY MOON were sunk. Eleven ships passed Dungeness (V.A. Dover 2001/25 to Adty.) 16 survivors of PORTSLADE on Board DRANGEY. One on board MISTLEY. (V.A.Dover 2350/25)

Convoy BOOTY — Being attacked by A/C. My position 53°5' N., 1°23' E. (WOLFHOUND 2200/25)

KOLLSKEGG — Aground off St. Catherines; bombed and probably hit aft. (D.C.N.S.326)

Portland and Weymouth — Attacked by A/C at 1120/25, but were driven off by Fighters. (I.C.0523/40)

War Diary

25.7.40
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS (ctd.)

Mining

Spurn Point — BEECH reports parachute mine dropped 049° Spurn Point 19.74 miles (F.O.Number 0640/25 to C. in C.Nore)

Milford Haven — Port now open. (N.O.I.C.Milford Haven 0945/25)

Falmouth — Port closed owing to mines. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1019/25)

Hartlepool — Mine detonated by M/S Drifters at 54°41'30" N. 1°5' W., at 0930/25. (N.O.I.C.Hartlepool 1200/25)

One red mine detonated by L.L.tugs at 090° Mid Barrow Light Vessel 9 cables. (C. in C. Nore 1913/25)

Workington, Maryport, Silloth — Open to outward traffic at 1600/25. Will be open to inward traffic at 0800/26. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2122/25)

Rosyth — One mine exploded 2.6 miles N.E. of Inchkeith, and one parachute mine reported off Inchkeith. (I.C.0523/40)

Needles. — 2 mines exploded N. of the Needles (I.C.0523/40

E. Coast barrier — Weather permitting all available M A/S B's to join D.20 at Aldeburgh L.V. at 2200/26 to act as anti-E Boat escort until force returns to Aldeburgh L.V. Request numbers of M A/S B's detailed and intended time of sailing may be signalled. (C. in C.Nore 1746/25 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

Enemy Intelligence

At 1745/25 in 51°20' N., 3°E. two M/V's, course 240. A/C report. (A.C.H.Q.Chatham 2030/25)

At 1750/25 in 51°25' N., 3°10' E. six M/V's escorted by 1 destroyer, course 240, following coastline. M/V's about 2000 tons and included some tankers. (A.C.H.Q.Chatham 2030/25)

Boulogne — At 1700/25 one 2-funnel vessel anchored S. of Outer Mole, and 6 of Trawler type within Outer Mole. No other shipping seen. (Chatham A.C.H.Q.1840/25)

At 1750/25 in 51°25' N., 3°10' E. 6 M/V's 2000 tons and one destroyer. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2030/25)

Rotterdam — No changes or activity or Naval Units. (P.U.I.2047/25)

War Diary

25.7.40
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Ctd.)

Battery at Gris Nez.

Recent intense activity at Gris Nez apparently to build major shore battery commanding W. approaches. Activity continuing (P.I.U. 2307/25 to N.I.D.)

At 0652/25, five fishing smacks in 56°5' N., 7°20' E. and at 0655/25, one more fishing smack in 56°5' N., 7°10' E. (Donibristle 1050/25)

At 1615/25, in 58°10' N. 5°30' E., 3 M/V's course 210° speed 10 knots. (Donibristle 1945/26)

Shipping

Convoy T.C.6.

Request at least 4 more destroyers be allocated to Plymouth to enable escort of 8 destroyers to be provided for T.C.6. (C. in C. W.A. 1852/25 to Adty.)

GOTHENBURG

Swedish, with first batch of repatriated British soldiers will be ready to sail P.M./31st July. German N.A. expecting safe-conduct. (N.A. Stockholm 1211/25 to Adty.)

WEATHER

0500

Area	Wind	Visibility	Outlook
North Sea	In West. West Light to Moderate. Central and East. S. to S.W. Moderate.	Good Moderate	Similar Improving
Channel	W. to N. Light to Moderate	Good, coastal mist.	Wind backing to S.W.
Western Approaches	N.W. Light to moderate.	Good	Wind backing S.W. Fresh. Vis. moderate local fog.
Horns Reef	S. to S.S.W. moderate	Moderate to good.	Similar.
Dutch Coast	S.W. to W. Light to moderate.	Moderate. local fog.	Visibility improving to good.
S.W. Coast Norway	S.E. to E. Light to moderate	Moderate to good, local fog.	Similar

War Diary

25.7.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Evacuee Ships

My 1332/24 Governor now considers delay involved by keeping remaining evacuee ships until sailing of convoy HG 40 3/8 should not be accepted. There are 8 ships already awaiting this convoy and I intend to sail convoy HG 40 with addition of all remaining evacuee ships escorted by WELLINGTON p.m. /30.

HG 40

It will still be necessary to sail ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ULSTER MONARCH and ROYAL SCOTSMAN in separate fast convoy sailing in accordance with my 1334/24 as their fresh water capacity is insufficient for time involved by slow convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1244/25)

Transport of Mobile guns in VALIANT

Numbers which VALIANT could carry etc., (F.O.C.N.A. 1830/25)

Daladier

Re bringing him to England (V.C.N.S. 1513/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic

French Cameroons

Asking whether arrangements should be made for evacuation of British Subjects or whether it is intended to take over mandate. (C. in C., S.A. 1341/25)

War Diary

25.7.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Reinforcement of Med. Fleet. Dispositions etc.,

1st S.L. 1950/25, 1953/25 to C. in C., Med., See Mediterranean Volume.

CALEDON
CAPETOWN

Your 0933/24. Anticipated that in spite of inadequate A.A. armament lack of speed and low endurance CALEDON and CAPETOWN can be usefully employed on E.I. station If C. in C., E.I. concurs, request you will arrange details of transfer direct with him. (1st S.L. 1706/25 to C. in C., Med.)

Organisation Mediterranean Fleet
Force H.
ROYAL SOVEREIGN

My 0142/14 to C. in C., H.F. and 0827/15 to C. in C., Med.
Decided that, subject to any changed in the general situation, the forces operating under C. in C., Med. and S.O. Force H will be as follows:-

2. Mediterranean Fleet

WARSPITE, VALIANT, MALAYA, RAMILLIES
being later relieved by BARHAM.
ILLUSTRIOUS, EAGLE.
KENT, YORK
GLOUCESTER, LIVERPOOL, ORION, NEPTUNE
SYDNEY
CALCUTTA and COVENTRY
Destroyers as at present
Sloops under consideration.
Submarines as at present with reinforcements already ordered from China.

3. Force H.

RAMILLIES, RESOLUTION
ARK ROYAL
SHEFFIELD, ENTERPRISE.
Destroyers as at present

4. ROYAL SOVEREIGN will join the Halifax convoy Escort Force.

5.

(1st. S.L. 1700/25)

/My 1953/25.....

War Diary

25.7.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Dispositions

My 1953/25 and your 1301/21 Decision to employ ROYAL SOVEREIGN in Halfax Escort Force is based on urgency of reinforcing this Force. If a battleship is required for a slow Australian troop convoy late in September, it is hoped you will be able to spare RAMILLIES, as question of sending you BARHAM should by then be more clear. (V.C.N.S. 1957/25 to C. in C., Med)

R.A. Renouf has hoisted his flag in LIVERPOOL temporarily and will transfer to GLOUCESTER when latter is ready (C. in C., Med., 2227/24)

Air

Italian Aircraft which landed near Monacor, 18/7

Your 1014/23 aircraft landed 0700 hours from direction of Gran (Consul, Palma T.H.I. 0036/25 to S.O.(I) Gib.)

WARSPITE's Aircraft

My 1913/20 and WARSPITE's 1210/21 and 1228/21 Italian broadcast on 22/7 stated a British aircraft had been brought down in sea off North African Coast and crew had been rescued. Seems probable that this may have been WARSPITE's aircraft. (C. in C., Med. 0927/25)

Raid on Alexandria

0400- 0520. No military damage. Details (R.A. i/c Alexandria 1001/25) Small ammunition carrier ARNON empty hit by bomb caught fire, fire extinguished (C. in C., Med. 2315/25)

Haifa Refinery

My 1723/17. and N.O. i/c Haifa 1030/24. I again wish to draw attention to situation at Haifa. If nothing is done it is only a matter of time before refinery will be put out of action and then Haifa as a source of supply of fuel for Fleet will cease functioning. The real trouble is that the Italian air forces in Dodecanese are being allowed to operate entirely unhindered by any counter action. These air forces are also most active against Fleet for same reason. Only solution I can see is that long rang bombers are sent to Egypt forthwith. Perhaps they could be flown out, refuelling Malta. (C. in C., Med. 1003/25 to Admty.)

/HAVOCK.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- Contd.

HAVOCK (Damaged 19/7) — Details of damage. Ship has been made seaworthy in Adty. floating dock and proceeded to Suez. 25/7 for permanent repairs. Estimated 5 weeks. (C. in C., Med. 1349/25)

East Indies

WESTRALIA — My 0632/10. After making R.V. with Force Q proceed to Colombo. (C. in C., E.I. 0430Z/25)

MILFORD — Orders for patrol arriving Cape Verde Is. (C. in C., S.A. 1340/25)

"NIBLICK" Operations — C. in C., E.I. 0724/25. See Operations Volume.

PERLA Destroyed 27/6) — My 0741/28/6 HOBART reports submarine PERLA (? corrupt group) on beach. Not examined closely as air attack reported in my 0756/22 drove her out to sea no surface craft seen. (C. in C., E.I. 0730Z/25)

TW One — Re sailing (C. in C., E.I. 10732Z/25)

R.A.F. Summary — H.Q., R.A.F. M.E. Operational Summary No 45 period 24 hours ending 1800/25. Photographic reconnaissance Tobruk 24/7 shows 13 large ships and 1 submarine in harbour. ~~Enemy submarine in harbour.~~ 1 Ship 400 feet long shore south side of harbour making total 4 ships either sunk or on their sides. 3 of the ships probably put out of action by 824 Squadron torpedo attack 19/7 and 1 destroyer by R.A.F. attack 20/7. Only active warships now in TOBRuk are guardship SAN GIORGIO and 1 submarine. Enemy bombed Matruh area 5 times 24/7. No information yet casulaties or damage. (H.Q., R.A.F. M.E. 1749/25)

China

Dispositions — Your 0927/24. Provided it can be accepted that patrols in Japanese or Chines waters can only be spasmodic the following arrangements are being made. KANIMBLA will leave Singapore about 2/8 to join E.I. Command.

MORETON BAY will leave Hong Kong about 28/7 for Singapore and E.I. ARAWA will remain on China coast or at Hong Kong till relieved by a "D" Class Cruiser about mid-August when escort duties from Penang to Colombo are completed.

/She will the.....

War Diary

25.7.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Dispositions, Contd. She will then follow to Singapore and thence to N.I. With three "D" Class Cruisers remaining I intend to keep one based at Hong Kong for China Coast duty and two when available at Singapore for patrol in approach to Malacca Straits etc., (C. in C., China 0845Z/25 to Adty.)

Flying Boats A.O.C. Far East is basing 2 Singapore Flying boats at Nancowry and 1 at Penang for next three weeks. They will be ready to operate as Searching or Striking Force from 29/7 if raider is again located. (C. in C., China, 0245Z/25 to C. in C., E.I.)

Transfer of Italian and German Ships Your 0525Z/23. I have reminded Ministry of Marine that transfer of Italian as well as German ships to neutral Flag will not be recognised and that such ships would be liable to seizure. (N.A. Tokyo 1739/24 to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

Submarine 014 Netherlands authorities have placed submarine O 14 now at Curacao under your orders from 26/7 Request you will sail Submarine to U.K. via Bermuda. (D.O.D. (F) 1805/25 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

SUMATRA Programme (C. in C., A.W.I. 1251/25)

Raider Further details (DIOMEDE 1617/22)

War Diary

25.7.40
Thursday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

NARINGA — British. Due Mombasa 21/7. Overdue.
(S.O.I.Colombo 0502Z/25 to Adty.)

Your 0502. Arrived here 0915Z/24 July.
(N.O.I.C.Kilindini 0837/25 to S.O.I.Colombo)

War Diary

25.7.1940.
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LICHTENFELS GERA	Your 1756/23. 10 German ships including LICHTENFELS and GERA are still believed to be at Massawa (C. in C., E.I. 0736/25)
KONIGSBERG PREUSSEN	Reported she would arrive at Swinemunde 2330/25 (I.C. 0523/40)
DANZIG	Has arrived. All other German vessels previously reported here left (B.C. Gothenburg 0930/25)
YALOVA	Due Batum 28/7 from Istanbul (left 25/7) (Galati 1409/25)
TANNENFELS UCKERMARK	Definitely identified at Kismayu 21/7 COLOMBO (C. in C. E.I. 08047/25)
ASKARI KIONGA	Probably two of the ships sighted at Kismayu 21/7 by COLOMBO (C. in C., E.I. 0804//25)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

TREMARIE	Not yet sailed. Cancel my 1013/25 (S.O.(i) Gib. 2157/25) (1013/25 stated TREMARIE had left Valencia overnight)
LEONADO DA VINCI MANON DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI ADRA	Definitely identified at Kismayu 21/7 by COLOMBO
PENSILVANIA INTEGRITAS SAVOIA SOMALIA MARGHERA	Presence at Kismayu not confirmed. is probably the Italian Tanker seen at Kismayu 21/7 by COLOMBO. There are no ships at Mogadishu.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

NOTOU	Left for Sydney 25/7 (N.C.O. Port Kimbla 05502/25) Your 1727/20. French ships referred to in S.B.N.O. Suez Canal's 2006/19 cannot be legally requisitioned in Egyptian waters. They should be sailed under armed guard to Cyprus or other convenient British Port and there requisitioned. Ports in Palestine should not be used. This applies equally to PRESIDENT DOUMER and FELIX ROUSSEL. Crews should all be dealt with under A.M. 2319/16 (Hd. of M. 2048/25 to C. in C., Med.)

War Diary

25.7.1940.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported

2130 — 52° 5' N., 4° 49'W., Reported as unreliable (I.C. 0523/40)

America & West Indies

Submarine reported to have surfaced at 1130 G.M.T. 25/7 about 2 miles north of Tortloa Island. Submarine proceeded to the North Eastward. No surface craft or aircraft near vicinity. Request you ascertain if United States Submarine. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1503/25 to N.A. Washington)

Reply. Navy Dept. informs me there is no U.S.A. submarine operating in those waters. (N.A. Washington 1535/26)

Submarines Attacked

0426 — Aircraft 59° 19' N., 1° 9' W., bombed oil streak (A/C 0426/25)

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported

12° 30' N., 43° 55' E., (108° Perim 1.30 miles) reported from native post ashore C.3. (I.C. 0523/40)

War Diary

26.7.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Fighters at Dover

Adty. 1857/24. Fighter Command agrees that Fighters should avoid Dover while U.R. weapons being used. If you agree we propose confirm this. (Air Ministry, 1230/26 to Adty.)

Defence of R.N. Air Stations

Siting of Pill-Boxes and other Defences. (Head of A. 1535/26)

Greenock Ballon Protection

Your 2006/25. Reconnaissance has been made, and equipment will be provided as soon as available. (Air Ministry 1947/26 to Adty.)

Exercise WHISKY

Exercise to test Inter-Service Communications in event of Hostile landing on East Coast will take place from 0600/28 till 1800/29 (D.S.D. 1226/26)

Movements

SHEFFIELD YORK COVENTRY CALCUTTA

SHEFFIELD, YORK, COVENTRY, CALCUTTA to be ready to leave U.K. on 11th August. SHEFFIELD will join Force H; YORK CALCUTTA and COVENTRY will join Mediterranean Fleet; COVENTRY should proceed to Plymouth on completion of Operation S.N. 31. (A.C.N.S. H. -1157/26 to C. in C., H.F.)

Submarines

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/27. Area A. NARWHAL TRIDENT TRITON SNAPPER H 28 H 50 as in my 1723 25th July. THAMES JZSC 5010 proceeding submerged by day to TGTA 4550 PORPOISE PCTA 4618 proceeding submerged by day to RQLZ 5817. Netherlands submarine O 23 escorted by Netherlands T.T.Z.6. due Stornoway 1000 27th July leaving p.m. for Dundee. Submarines leave Rosyth as follows SUNFISH SEALION 1300 TAKU TRIAD TRIBUNE 1930 all five proceeding on surface North East STURGEON leaves Blyth 1600 Southward on surface for H one. SWORDFISH leaves Blyth 1900 on surface through Gap B thence Northwards. URSULA leaves Rosyth 0400 unescorted on surface for Blyth. (V.A.S. 1727/26)

War Diary

26.7.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

E. Boats

Convoy C.W. 8.	Attacked by E-Boat at 0255 (C. in C., Portsmouth 0314/26 to SALADIN, STURDY)
LONDON TRADER	Torpedoed by E-Boat at 0230/26, 13' S. by W. of Shoreham. 12 saved, 1 lost (C. in C., Portsmouth 1209/27)
BROADHURST	Torpedoed at 0235/26, 17' by W of Shoreham 13 saved, 4 lost (C. in C., Portsmouth 1209/27)
LULONGA	Collier. At 0220/26, about 10 miles S. of Shoreham, attacked by E-Boat, machine gunned, torpedoed, and sunk. 2 severely wounded. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1014/26 to Adty.)
SANFRAY	At 0230/26 in 50° 26' N., 0° 22'W attacked by E-Boats and again at 0445/26 about 5' South of Shoreham. Ship arrived Shoreham with Gunner injured. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1015/26 to Adty.)

At 1550/26, five E-Boats West of Cape Gris Nez. (I.C. 0534/40)

War Diary

26.7.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air- British Air Activity

My 0055/26. A/C attacked 5000 ton ship off Haugesund. No result. (Hatston 0812/26 to A.C.C.S.)

A/C attacked one 3000 tons ship escorted by motor-launch steering south in Hardanger Fiord. Ship sinking when last seen. (Hatston 0812/26 to A.C.C.S.)

Patrol SAI (B) cancelled till further orders An offensive Patrol of 3 Blenheims will be flown instead. (C. in C., Rosyth 1416/26 to Adty.)

9 Skuas left Hatston 0050/26 to attack Oil Tanks south of Bergen, returning Sunbrough about 0445. (Hatston 0055/26)

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy bombing at 64' E.N.E. of Kinnairds Head. My course 015, speed 35 knots. (NAIAD 0535/26) Two bombs, no hits, (NAIAD 0545/26)

Enemy bombing at 52° 35' N., 2° 16' E. (WHITSHED 0710/26) Bombs missed (WHITSHED 0712/26)

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Tyne	Port closed owing to suspected Minelaying (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0140/26) Port Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0710/26)
Rosyth	Port closed. Parachute Mine reported at 56° 4' N., 3° 4' 36" W., (C. in C., Rosyth 1233/26)
Swansea Port Talbot	Closed to all ships owing to suspected Minelaying by aircraft (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 0200/26 to Adty.) Swansea open to all ships. Port Talbot remains closed (F.O.I.C. -Cardiff 1757/26 to C. in C. W.A.)
Aberdeen	Port closed owing to enemy action. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0239/26) R.A.F. plotting shows 2 areas suspect. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0701/ 26 to C. in C. Rosyth)
Harwich	LL sweepers exploded 2 Magnetic Mines at 51° 47' N., 1° 25' E., at 0831/26 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1057/26)
Falmouth	Port now open)F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1500/26)
Proposed Minefield	Proposed that during forthcoming dark period 20th D.F. shall lay mines on line 10 miles 360° from 51° 21' N., 2° 56' E. to cover Schoonevald and West Pit. Remarks requested (A.C.N.S.H 1653/26 to C. in C., Nore)
Milford Haven	Mine dropped off Sheep Island last night exploded on surface. Now 3 possible mines in Haven and approaches. Areas affected are kept clear (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1838/26)
Mumbles	Red Mine detonated by single L 096° Mumbles Light 2.9 miles and one by double L 102° Mumbles Light 2.8 miles. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1941/26 to Adty.)
Sunderland	Port closed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2131/26 to Adty)
B.S. 28	D.20 with EXPRESS, ESK, ICARUS, INTREPID, IMPULSIVE left Humber 1345/26 (F.O. Humber 1355/26 to Adty.) (Your 1653 No objection (V.A.S. 1859/26 to Adty.)

War Diary

28.7.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Main German Units	No further information (D.D.I.C. 1639/26)
Romsdale Fiord	At 1223/26, One transport 6000 to 8000 tons moving into Fjord. A/C report. (Donibristle 1712/26)
Froi Fiord, 45' W. of Trondheim	At 1347/26 in 63° 45' N., 8° 56' E., four Destroyers or sloops steering towards Trondheim at 15 knots. A/C report (Donibristle 1712/26)
	At 0100/26 in 52° 28' N., 4° 35' E., three large 6,000 tons ships and twelve small 600 to 1,000 tons anchored and unlit. (T.H.I. 0016/27)
Havre	No shipping seen at 1537/26. (I.C. 0524/40)

Shipping.

HX 57 B.	WANDERER with convoy arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0702/26)
HX 58	Sail one destroyer to meet HX 58 as early as practicable and subsequently escort B portion (A.C.W.A. 1049/26 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)
MAHOMED ALI EL KEBIR	Speed 15 knots, with Troops for Gibraltar, will be ready leave Avonmouth p.m. 5th August . GRIFFIN to provide close escort. (D.O.D. H. 1055/26)
GOTHENBURG	Your 1211/25. Should not call at Norwegian Port but should proceed to Lerwick. Germans may wish give their own routeing instructions, but destination to be Lerwick. (D.T.D. 1916/26 to N.A. Stockholm.)
SL 42 and SLF 42	Route (D.T.D. 1800/26 to N.C.S.O. Freetown)
NORFOLK and DEVONSHIRE	Orders for covering Convoy. (C. in C., H.F. 2312/26)
HX 56	On time at rendez-vous (D.T.D. 1547/26 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

/SL 41.....

War Diary

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

S.L. 41. Amended sailing Telegram. (D.T.D. 1546/26 to C. in C., W.A.)

Intend sailing GEORGIC and KONIGEN EMMA escorted by WATCHMAN and VORTIGERN for Reykjavik at 2000/27. Speed 15½ knots (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1646/26 to Adty.)

O.B. 187 Addition to Liverpool's sailing Telegram (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1249/26 to Adty.)

Convoy OA 199 Sailed 0715/26. 8 knots 45 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0750/26 to Adty.)

HX 62 Your 1222/24. Route. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1035/25 to Adty.)

ORDUNA Your 2015/25 Sails from Lisbon 1900/28 arriving Liverpool Bar Light Vessel 0630/ 1st August. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1109/26)

HT. 21 Sailed 0930/26. 26 Ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 1049/26/ to Adty.)

Reykjavik Convoy Intend sailing for Reykjavik at 2030/27 Speed 7 knots. Routed as in my 1646/26. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1651/26 to Adty.)

Fast Convoy with destroyer escort and slow convoy with trawler escort leave Clyde 27th July for Iceland. (V.A.N.P. 2107/26 to N Northern Patrol Negative Trawlers)

Raiders As enemy Raiders are at large, interim arrangements as to Radio Watches are to come ~~xxx~~ into force forthwith, and emergency Wireless Aerials to be fitted at once. 'D.T.D. 2121/26 to Ships)

Miscellaneous

The Sound Your 1617/24. The lower waters of the Sound along the Swedish Coast are now open to Light Draught Vessels. (N.A. Stockholm 1702/26 to D.N.I.)

War Diary

26.7.40.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

1. Situation at Gibraltar. Defences.

2. Adty. policy apparently remains to continue maximum use of Gibraltar to last possible moment. Urge that the following steps be taken. (a) Urge Adty. that shipping be kept available to remove Naval Base and Dockyard personnel at shortest notice. (b) Speed up evacuation. (c) Despatch reinforcements already requested.

3. Vital to defence of rock to stop all frontier traffic on first sign of offensive intended against us. To do so prematurely is most undesirable and I do not propose to unless I have certain proof of imminence of attack. Request that I be informed urgently if situation arises to call for such action. (Governor Gib. 1145/26, to W.O.).

Air Raid — Air raid on Gib. No damage to ships or dockyard. (F.O.C.N.A., 0158/26, 0252/26). Slight damage to No. Rock aerial. (S.O.(I) Gib. 1804/26).

Evacuees — My 1334/24. Convoy cannot be delayed once embarkation of evacuees has started. Re. escort (F.O.C.N.A. 1130A/26).

Dummy Air-raid — On Gib. 27/7 (F.O.C. Force H. 1920/26).

Your 1950/25. Our destroyers now on passage with ARGUS to complete 13th to remain at Gibraltar. This would leave 6 to screen HOOD, VALIANT and ARGUS on passage home which should suffice.

For passage out screen would hardly be sufficient if submarines at all active. FOXHOUND of 8th D.F. has only 7 days leave for each watch since war commenced; consider her replacement by an equivalent destroyer after arrival United Kingdon very desirable. (F.O.C. Force H. 1231/26).

ARK ROYAL — (Carrying out operations am/26), VIDETTE to proceed 0230/27 to R.V. with ARK ROYAL and escort 35:50 N., 6:40 W. at 0630 (Capt. D.13, 1618/26).

ATHLONE CASTLE — (With evacuees) left Gib. 2000/26 escorted by VELOX till 1200/27 (S.O.(I) Gib. 2100/26). Route etc. (F.O.C.N.A., 2104/26, 1732/27).

War Diary

26.7.40.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

S.S. ANGOLA
MILFORD
to intercept

MILFORD to intercept and remove German agent. (C. in C., S.A. 0932/26).
Expected to arrive St. Vincent 0600L/27.
As MILFORD probably unable to comply with my 0932/26 and intercept a reasonable time before arrival at St. Vincent interception to take place after ANGOLA sails. (C. in C., S.A., 1231/26 to MILFORD).

Port Stanley
Minesweeping

Temporarily suspended owing to defects in WILLIAM SCORESBY and ROYDUR (N.O.I.C. Port Stanley, 1420/26).

DRAGON
movements

Unless strong arguments to contrary, DRAGON sails from Duala pm/27 and proceeds Lagos to refuel and await further developments. DRAGON cannot remain indefinitely at Duala owing to fuel considerations and other possible requirements on station. Your Tel. unnumbered 26/7 and L/326 received and understood. (C. in C., S.A. 1018/26 to Governor Nigeria).

CITY OF JOHANNESBURG
CLAN ALPINE
KARANGA
? Raider or U-Boat

Master of British MYRTLEBANK reports sighting large columns of smoke for about three hours in position 012° 56' S. 004° 19' W. at 1330Z/18. He did not approach. British S.S. CITY OF JOHANNESBURG, CLAN ALPINE Northbound were about this position also British SS KARANJA due Cape Town 24/7 not yet arrived. These three on route A A three. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown 1845/26 to CUMBERLAND).

Mediterranean - Operations

Operation
"Hurry"

F.O. Force H, 1245/26 see Medit. Vol.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN
to proceed via
Cape

Adty. 1953/25. Do not consider it advisable to pass ROYAL SOVEREIGN through to Gib. in view of her low speed and added complications.
ROYAL SOVEREIGN badly in need of docking; propose she should sail now round the Cape docking en route at Durban. Escort to (?Aden) will be arranged (? for) (?ROYAL SOVEREIGN).
(C. in C. Med. 1437/26 to Adty. F.O. Force H., C. in C., E.I., C. in C., S.A.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Operations (Contd.)

Ammunition — Re shipping 8-inch ammunition to Canal area. (C. in C., Med. 2031/26).

Stores — Arrangements for shipping urgent stores to Malta from Eastern Medit. (C. in C., Med. 1005/26

War Plans — C. in C., Med. 2005/26 see Medit. Vol.

A.A. Guns — Re shipping in VALIANT. (Adty. 1207/26, F.O.I.C. Malta, 1439/26, VALIANT 1444/26).

REGULUS — Amended time of arrival Suez 0300Z/28 (REGULUS 1015/26).

PRESIDENT DOUMER — My 1249/19. Expect French ship PRESIDENT DOUMER will shortly be ready for sea manned by a French crew. Request instructions regarding service to which ship is to be allocated. She can carry at least 1000 troops. Strongly recommend early employment which would be good for morale of new French crew. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 0854/26 to Adty.)

Mediterranean - Air

Malta — One raid today by strong reconnaissance force accompanied by fighters who turned away when Gladiators went up to intercept. No bombs dropped. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 2131/26).

Haifa — Re air defences. (R.A.(D.1 Medit. 1805/26) see Medit. Vol.

Enemy Intelligence

It is reported that 2 cruisers, 4 destroyers and a number of submarines were seen patrolling past Skyess and Lemnos pm/26. (Graded C.O.) Note. It is possible that cruisers and destroyers should read destroyers and T.Bs. (I.C. 0524/40).

War Diary

26.7.40.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

CALEDON
CAPETOWN — (Re transfer to E.I. Station, see Medit. 25/7). Concur (C. in C., E.I. 1928Z/26).

Routes — New routes East Africa established. Details (C. in C., E.I. 0624Z/26).

"NIBLICK" **Force** — M.E. THI 1657/26 see Operations Volume.

Convoy B.N.3. — Size of (C. in C., E.I. 1702Z/26).

COLOMBO — To proceed when ready, to patrol in narrow part of Mozambique Channel to give cover to shipping. Orders. (C. in C., E.I. 0430/26). Intend to leave Mombasa 2100Z/26. (COLOMBO 1211Z/26).

AQUILONE (Dr.)
ABBA(T.B.) — Reported between Derna and Tobruk 0600/26. (AQUILONE was previously at Tobruk and believed damaged by air attack 1/7 proceeded to Naples-possibly to undergo repair. ABBA is normally stationed at Messine.) (I.C. 0524/40).

China

Shipping — Leakage of information re dates of arrivals of ships in Penang. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1758/26).

Transport.W.1. — Orders. Route. KANIMBLA will provide cover. Flying boat escort. (F.O.C. Singapore, 0443Z/26).

War Diary

26.7.40.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

BHX 61

Departure. Ocean Escort RAJPUTANA, local escort PENZANCE (Capt. I.C. Bermuda 1348/26).

Suspicious Ships and Motor Boats off Tortola.
ESME.

Adty. 1706/22/7. Following from S.N.O. Trinidad. Begins. British Sloop ESME reported on arrival St. Thomas Virgin Islands having seen 18/7 between Saba and Tortola several fast armed grey motor boats flying Swedish flag. C Three. 1128/25. Ends. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0023/26 to DIOMEDE).

Your 0023/26. I have interviewed Captain of ESME who confirms sighting ship resembling raider on 18/7 but did not sight any motor boats. Story seems without foundation, possibly based on survivors' report of two heavy motor boats in raider. (DIOMEDE 1817/26 to C. in C., E.I.).

My 2115/22. St. Thomas reports interviewing Master who stated that ship painted dark grey with yellow funnel. Looked like Swedish flag painted on side. Vessel resembled number 73 O.U. 6329 (1). B.3. (S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 1028/26. to Adty.)

Your 1028/26. St. Thomas should be further questioned regarding report in S.N.O. Trinidad 1128 25th July. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1542/26 to S.O.(I), KINGSTON, Jamaica).

DIOMEDE
amended patrol

My 1301/23 and 0023/26. It appears possible that several fast armed boats may have been hoisted out of raider and may be operating in vicinity of Monaco and/or Sombrero passages. Reported to be painted grey and flying Swedish flag. Amend DIOMEDE patrol to cover Monaco and Sombrero passages as far north as 20° N. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1021/26 to DIOMEDE).

Programme to be carried out by SUMATRA leaving Bermuda 25/7.

Bermuda departure Netherlands Cruiser SUMATRA for Jamaica as in my 1251/25. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1153/26).

War Diary

26.7.40.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

TROPIC SEA
Raider

Reference S.O.(I) Wellington 0646Z/5. Norwegian Ship TROPIC SEA overdue since 9/7 at Panama direct from Sydney should have been near position in which supposed Raider was sighted. TROPIC SEA carried 433 tons of oil bunkers and 8000 tons of Wheat. (D.N.I. Melbourne, 1210Z/26).

War Diary

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

TROPIC SEA — Norwegian. Overdue at Panama since 9th July. (D.N.I. Melbourne 1210Z/26 to Adty.)

CITY OF JOHANNESBURG
CLAN ALPINE
KARANJA
} Due Cape town 24/7 and not yet arrived See S. Atlantic.

ALPHA — Portuguese, 853 tons, bombed near Ushant on 15th July. now considered a total loss. (D.S. 326)

War Diary

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Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ARAUCA — Following from Jacksonville. ARAUCA endeavouring to clear fine and port bond againts detachments of voyage. Destination unknown. 5 members of crew trying to secure permission to proceed to Mexico apparently to join German ships there, accordingly suspect these ships may also be preparing to sail (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1157/26)

WESER
HAVELLAND — U.S. authorities Panama quote unconfirmed report these ships given ammunition and supplies at sea by Japanese ship(s) B.2.

FRANKFURT — Callao reports her loading 500 tons coal from Chilean MAULLIN B.2. (S.O. (1) Kingston Jamaica 1137/26)

ANTILLA — (Scuttled at Aruba, N.W.I.) Report of surveyor that ship can be rendered seaworthy within 2 month. (Consul, Willemstad, 1910/26)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FELLA — Reported from Panama expected to sail next week B.2. (S.O.(1) Kingston, Jamaica 1137/26)

War Diary

26.7.1940.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

S.S.HAYTOR
mined

British (1189 tons) In ballast, in convoy FN 33 mined and sunk in 51° 47.7' N., 1° 48.3' E, in Themes Estuary. 14 survivors out of crew of 17 crew in TOLWORTH. Sank in 4 minutes. Only one explosion heard. (EGRET 1159/26, 1255/26, C. in C., Nore 1723/26) Possibly contact mine (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1401/26 to VENOMOUS)

ACCRA
VINEMOOR

(British 9337 tons)
(British 4359 tons)
In outward bound convoy HX 58 240 miles N.W. of Ireland.

Torpedoed 55° 43' N16025' W ENCHANTRESS hunt U-boat not to be allowed to move north. ACCRA sunk (1532) VINEMOOR stern blown off. Tug to be sent. Tug ENGLISHMAN sailed (1930) No casualties in VINEMOOR, approx 340 survivors from ACCRA in rescue ships, 73 in ENCHANTRESS. CLARKIA has been in contact and dropped 2 patterns no result she has rejoined rescue ships. VINEMOOR derelict drifting slowly south should remain afloat if weather holds, position 55° 41' N., 16° 21' W., (1945) ENCHANTRESS to continue hunt (2237)(ENCHANTRESS 1350/26 1532/26, 1945/26., C. in C., W.A. 1512/26. 1547/26, 1836/26, 2224/26, 2237/26, F.O.i/c Greenock 1930/26, ENCHANTRESS 0745/27, 1150/27.

BALZAC
Sunk

Norwegian (963 tons) mined and sunk off Sunderland 2100 (1 mile 124° Roker Pier Light) (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2209/26)

Unknown Ship

Intercept 0158 G.M.T. "Being attacked by U-Boat" (Wick Radio T.O.R. 0310/26)

Submarines Reported

0340 — 61° 0' 0° 20' E., by aircraft on surface. Crash dived. (C. in C., Rosyth 1020/26, 1112/26, Donibristle, 1015/26).

1045 — 54°3' N., 4° 58' W. aircraft photographed U-boat (I.C. 0524/40).

1738 — Periscope in 53°5' N., 5°1' W. (C. in C., W.A. 2106/26, 2116/26).

War Diary

26.7.40.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

Estimated Dispositions

1 in Finisterre Area or farther South. No report of her since 21st.
1 homeward bound from Cape de Verde Islands may possibly reach N.W. Approaches today.
1 outward bound may possibly reach N.W. Approaches via the Minches today.
1 off Flannen Islands outward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1454/26).

North Atlantic

0800 — 28°25' N., 16°40' (off Orotava, Canary Is.) Shore report (F.O.C.N.A. 2250/26, Consul Teneriffe 1529/26, S.O.(I), Gib. 1737/27 to C. in C., S.A.).

Submarines Attacked

About 1600 — By CLARKIA see ACCRA, VINEMOOR torpedoed.

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported

0230 — 36°40' N., 19°40' E. Position approx. A.I. (I.C., 0523/40).

PERLA — My 0730/25. Report of Italian submarine on beach. S.N.O. Red Sea Force now reports KIMBERLEY who was nearest but five to six miles distant during this inspection cannot be certain of facts. He grades HOBART's report A Two. (C. in C., E.I. 0524Z/26).

War Diary

27.7.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Night Artillery and Fleet Artillery Zones in Harbour

Adty. 1557/170 Abolition of Zones; and new trial arrangements as to Recognition and Approach to come into force at Noon 1st August. (D. of L.D. 1301/27 to Air Ministry and War Office.)

Belfast Lough

Fighters from Aldergrove may pursue enemy aircraft over Belfast Lough. (Air Ministry 1430/27 to H.Q. Fighter Command)

Dover

My 1253/21. Danger of air-attack too great to warrant use as advanced base. Consider Trawlers, Drifters, M.T.B's, and Motor Boats should continue to be based at Dover, and that a reinforced Concrete Roof should be built over Train Ferry Dock. Intend to base all 1st Flotilla at Portsmouth and conduct night patrols in Dover area from Portsmouth. (V.A. Dover 2257/27 to Adty.)

Humber Force

To remain at half hours notice at least until 0900/28. (C. in C., Nore 2323/27)

Movements

Submarines

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/28 Area A.
TRIDENT Fro Havet
NARWHAL between DNXG 1600 and Statlandet
TRITON QSMF 1020
SNAPPER PCMF 5025
THAMES TGTA 4550
PORPOISE PCUB 1000 proceeding submerged by day to RQLZ 5817.
TAKU TRIAD TRIBUNE in vicinity of JZVD,
SUNFISH SEALION SWORDFISH in JZGR 3010, JZVD 1850, RQGR 4545 respectively all six proceeding on surface to Fro Havet, QSMF 4510 JZLZ 4000, C one, C.3, and TGLZ. 4812 respectively.
STURGEON NLGR 3020 proceeding submerged by day to relieve H.28. H.28 in H one and two.
H.50 CPSC 5555 leaving 2200 for Harwich.
H.44 leaves Harwich p.m. to relieve H.50.
NETHERLANDS S/M O.23 escorted by Z.6. on passage to Stornoway to Dundee joined by L.26 off Scapa 1600.
NETHERLANDS S/Ms O.21 and O22 leave Rosyth p.m. for Dundee.
SEAWOLF leaves Rosyth p.m. on surface North East.
URSULA leaves Methil 0500 unescorted on surface to Blyth. (V.A.S. 1718/27)

War Diary

27th/7. 1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Submarines (Contd.)

Positions and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/28 in area B.
TIGRIS KQQG 4130
TALISMAN escorted by LORD HAILSHAM on passage from Rothesay to relieve TIGRIS.
(V.A.S. 1713/27)

BRILLIANT (Damaged 25/7)

BRILLIANT in tow of LADY BRASSEY WALPOLE and VIVACIOUS leave Dover for Sheerness at 0200/28. Speed about 7½ knots. Request fighter escort from 0430 when ships are expected to be in position 125° N. Foreland 3½ miles. (V.A. Dover 2108/27 toAOC)

Operations

WESTON

Will be anchored E of Inchkeith East Gate during night 27/28 to destroy enemy aircraft (C. in C., Rosyth 1104/27)

Operation PH

2 M.T.B's to carry out tonight. (C. in C., Nore 1200/27) (R.A.S. 1824/27)

Iceland

Your 0202/19 and 1909/23. Request indicate position where Observation Minefields could be maintained and would be useful. (A.C.N.S. H. 1302/27 to F.O.I.C. Iceland)

Operation by Force A. (See Enemy Intelligence)

Battle-Cruisers, Cruiser and Destroyers are at 2½ hours notice for steam

Bring M A/S Bs to immediate notice (C. in C. Nore 1805/27 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

Battle-Cryisers, 4 cruisers, 8 Destroyers will pass Pentland Skerries at 2000/27 to 59° N., 1° E and thence, if no information, to 62° N., 3° 30' E., at 24 knots. Force is commanded by CSI and will be known as Force A. (C. in C., H.F. 1900/27 to Adty.) ZULU and MAORI to join Force A. (C. in C., H.F. 2201/27 to ZULU) At 0800/28 if no information of enemy surface force you should at your discretion alter course to 290° (C. in C., H.F. 2312/27 to F.O. 1st C.S Air Cooperation see Air.

E-Boats

E-Boats S.S.W. St. Albans 3 miles (C. in C., Portsmouth)

War Diary

27.7.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Air-British Air Activity

At 58° 50' N., 5° 52' E., at 1025/27 one Norwegian M/V about 1000 tons bombed. Direct hit and near misses. Crew took to lifeboat. (Donibristle 1312/27)

Trondheim

A/C leaves Sumburgh about 1700 to make further R/C of Trondheim. (C. in C., Rosyth 1544/27 to Adty.)

At 2010/27 in 53° 40' N., 5° 10' E., A/C attacked 3 enemy M/V's with bombs. Estimate 1 hit. (A/C 220 Sqdn. 2045/27)

At 1945/27 in 58° 20' N., 5° 40' E., A/C attacked 2 Flak Ships and 2 tugs. Result not seen. (Donibristle 2230/26)

At 1935/27 in 58° 58' N., 5° 26' E., A/C attacked one M/V 2000 tons and 1940/27 2 M/V's 800 and 600 tons. One or more hits claimed. (Donibristle 2315/27)

My 2002/26. Air cooperation can no longer be maintained today owing to lack of aircraft (C. in C., Rosyth 1718/27 to ZULU, MAORI) See Operations Force A.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy FS 33 Bombed

One aircraft position 53° 45'N., 0° 37' E., (BLACKSWAN 1236/27) Bombing (1239/27) No hits (BLACKSWAN 1245/27)

WESTAVON Damaged (Convoy FN 34)

8 A/C bombing (WOLFHOUND 1447/27) No hits. My position 52° 6' N., 1° 51' E., (WOLFHOUND 1452/27) WESTHAVEN near missed and disabled at 52° 8' N., 2° 53'E., M/L NORMANDE standing by (WOLFHOUND 1535/27) Arrived Harwich later.

Raid on Dover WALPOLE damaged

4 A/C attacked Harbour at 1430/27. WALPOLE damaged at a buoy by a near miss. No casualties (V.A. Dover 1516/27 to Adty.) WALPOLE can steam but should be limited to 10 knots. (V.A. Dover 1809/27 to Adty.) My 1516/27. Sequence of events during raid (V.A. Dover 0046/28)

/CODRINGTON.....

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity, Contd.

CODRINGTON Sunk SANDHURST damaged

About 6 aircraft attacked Harbour at 1740/27 CODRINGTON sunk by direct hit and SANDHURST damaged. (V.ADover 1845/27) Casualties in CODRINGTON three slightly wounded. No casualties in SANDHURST (V.A. Dover 2137/27 to Adty.) My 1845/27 Sequence of events (V.A. Dover 0021/28)

TEDWORTH

An being attacked by A/C (TEDWORTH 1645/27) Off North Foreland. Slight damage, some casualties, proceeded to Portsmouth after landing wounded at Dover (D.O.R. 328)

MONTROSE

Disabled at 52° 10' N., 2° 6' E. at 1704/27 and being towed Harwich or Sheerness. Request fighter patrol till dark to escort. (C. in C., Nore, 1803/27) Unable to steam. Attacked while giving A/A protection to sweepers in Gap E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1809/27 to Adty.) VERITY, WORCESTER, and M.T.Bs have left Harwich to assist. (C. in C., Nore 1821/27) Your 1821. M.A.S.B's 06 and 10 sailed at 1900 and 1850 to escort HALCYON towing MONTROSE (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1924/27 to C. in C., Nore) SHELDRAKE has secured alongside MONTROSE. WHITSHED and MAS boats escorting and 5 undamaged Trawlers with 40 casualties on board. VETERAN and VERITY supplementing Escort till dark. (VETERAN 2037/27 to C. in C., Nore)

Have got MONTROSE in tow my position 081° Aldeburgh 2' course 249° speed 5 knots. HALCYON is assisting with tow (WORCESTER 2059/27) HALCYON now towing MONTROSE to Harwich escorted by WHITSHED and M.T.Bs. VETERAN, VERITY, WORCESTER proceeded on O Patrol. No casualties in MONTROSE. (F.O.I.C Harwich 2100/27 to Adty.) Expect to arrive 0215 at Boom (MONTROSE 2247/27 to H.O.I.C. Harwich)

Confirmed that MONTROSE shot down 2 Enemy Bombers yesterday. (C. in C., Nore 1147/28 to Adty.)

WREN

Received from HALCYON begins WREN sunk 10 miles 075° Aldeburgh (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1805/27 to C. in C., Nore) Survivors from WREN 4 officers and 99 men (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2100/27 to Adty.)

TEDWORTH

Bombed off N. Foreland at 1645/27. Some casualties, slight damage (D.O.H.S. 328)

War Diary

27.7.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Humber	Closed. Magnetic Mines laid. (F.O. Humber 0050/27) Humber Open (F.O.Humber 1030/27.
B.S. 28.	Operation completed (Capt. D. 20th DF 0157/27 to Adty.)
Belfast	Port closed. Suspect A/C minelaying (F.O.I.C Belfast 0220/27) Port now open (H.O.I.C. Belfast 0857/27)
St. George's Channel (Operation S M 32.)	Your 2329/23. A second and most secret Gap to be left in Minefield for emergency use only. Particulars. (A.C.N.S. H. 1307/27 to C. in C., W.A.) Details of Gap. (A.C.N.S. H. 1630/27 to RAML)
Fishguard	Port Open. (F.O .I.C. Milford Haven 1859/27 to Adty.)
Rosyth	Port Open. (C. in C., Rosyth 1447/27 to Adty. 4 Mines believed dropped at 0200/27)
Sunderland	Port Open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1459/27)
Rosyth	My 0045/27. Port of Rosyth is open. Four mines believed dropped at 0020/27 1st exploded by sweepers 038° one cable from South vessel East Gate Inchkeith at 0558. 2nd Exploded by sweepers 071° half a cable from North vessel East Gate Inchkeith at 0650 3rd Reported dropped approximately 5 cables Southward of Sout vessel East Gate Inchkeith at 0040. 4th Believed cause of double explosion one second interval approximately 061° 3 miles from Inchkeith at 0051 (C. in C., Rosyth 1509/27 to Adty.)

/Enemy Intelligence....

War Diary

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Trondheim	One large cruiser and 3 destroyers in Harbour. (C. in C., Rosyth L004/27 to Adty.)
Munkholmen Island	Cruiser anchored to S.E. of Island. Destroyers off West or South of Island. (C. in C., Rosyth 1432/27 to C. in C., H.F.)
	At 1030/27. in 60° 35' N., 4° 45' E., One Norwegian M/V 500 tons (Donibristle 1530/27)
Indications of Enemy Sortie	There are indications that Enemy Warships may leave Trondheim for a Sortie. (R.A.S. 1326/27 to S/M's)
	At 58° 20' N., 5° 40' E., 3 tugs and 2 auxiliary vessels (A/C 233 Sqdn. 1945/27)
German Convoys to Norway	A report received indicates that German convoy of from 3-5 ships averaging 6,000 tons, arrived at Oslo regularly every third day commencing 14.6.40 and continuing to 5.7.40. Before 14.6.40 they had been arriving at irregular intervals. No report of the arrivals since 5.7.40 has yet been received. (D.N.I. 2011/27 to V.A.S.)
	3 Enemy M/V's, course 350°, speed 8 knots, at 58° 56'N. 5° 23' E (A/C 233 Sqdn. 2057/27)
Helder	At 1132/27, 8' W of Helder, 4 small Vessels heading North (H.Q.B.C. 0403/28) At 1312/27, 5' E. of Helder, 8 small Vessels heading South (H.Q.B.C. 0403/28)
Heligoland	At 1436/27, 20' S. of Heligoland, large M/V 9000 tons heading North. (H.Q.B.C. 0403/28) At 1442/27, 15' S.W. of Heligoland, 5 small Vessels heading S.W. (H.Q.B.C. 0403/28)

War Diary

27.7.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoy FC 6

C. in C., W.A. 1852/26. Request you will provide additional destroyers as A/S escort. (D.O.D. (H) 1063/26 to C. in C., H.F.) Asking for position of R/V in view of position where SAUERE torpedoed (C. in C., H.F. 1059/27) Reply (C. in C., W.A. 1326/27)

Coastal Shipping

Re Adty. 719 A Z and 1934/26. Coastal shipping sailing to collection ports and dispersing to destination from C E and C W convoys are being routed by inshore routes regardless of searched channels, to avoid attack by A/C and E boats. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1240/27)

Personnel Convoy for Far East

A convoy of approximately 18 ships carrying personnel to the Far East with a minimum speed of 16 knots accompanied by SHROPSHIRE and CORNWALL will be sailed, partly from Liverpool and partly from Clyde on (date)

2. A/S escort of 8 destroyers will be required.

3. C. in C., W.A. state number of destroyers he can provide.

4. C. in C., H.F. is requested to provide the remainder. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1458/27, D.O.D. (F) 1542/27)

Channel Convoys

As a result of losses sustained by Convoy C.W. 8 it has been decided:-
1. That CW and CE Convoys are to be run in the Channel as a combined naval and air operation on a cycle of not less than 6 days, the number of vessels in each convoy being limited to 25.
2. Re defensive armament.
3. To arrange with the Ministry of Shipping that, as far as possible, the same vessels continue to be employed on the route.
4. To provide a mobile balloon barrage with each convoy.
(B) C. in C., Nore to continue to operate these convoys, co-ordinating the arrangements for their air protection with the Cs in C., Fighter and Coastal Commands.
(C) Cs. in C. W.A. and Portsmouth and V.A. Dover to provide such additional anti-E Boat protection as is possible while the convoys are passing through their command.
(D) It is proposed that the first convoy under the new arrangement should be a C.E. convoy which should sail from Falmouth as soon as the plans for its escort are ready. The mobile balloon barrage would join this convoy off the Isle of Wight. Further signal will be made. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1730/27)

War Diary

27.7.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Daladier — Re getting him to England (1st S.L. 1934/27 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Your 1934/27 following arrangements made with B.C.-O. Tangier and he informs me necessary action has beentaken. Boat containing Daladier and party to meet VELOX in 000° 21 miles Casablanca between 0100/28 and 0630/28. I have ordered VELOX to remain in that area until further orders from me if contact has not been made by 0630/28. (F.O.C.N.A. 2204/27).

ATHLONE CASTLE — List of officers embarked, also approx. 1650 Gibraltarians. Due Liverpool p.m. 31/7 (F.O.C.N.A. 1732/27).

HCF — Sailing telegram (F.O.C.N.A. 2200/27).

South Atlantic

S.S. SHETLAND — Left U.K. for Freetown 27/7. On arrival to be held with cargo undischarged at 4 days' notice (D.O.D.(F) 1310/27 to C. in C., S.A.)

Convoy SLF.41 PRETORIA CASTLE, BULOLO — PRETORIA CASTLE to act as ocean escort, then to Belfast to refit. Orders for BULOLO. (C. in C., S.A. 1256/27).

Cameroons evacuation. DRAGON. British ships prohibited. — Question regarding action to be taken in various circumstances which might arise is under consideration. Opinion here is that evacuation appears premature (A.C.N.S.(F) 1352/27 to C. in C, S.A.).
Consider any British ship entering is likely to be detained and seized. Request approval to leave am/28. Cable is being tampered with. Re evacuation. (2130/26). I consider evacuation will be necessary. Governor Brunot has forbidden entry of British merchant ships or aircraft into Cameroons and has demanded prompt departure of DRAGON (DRAGON 1720/27). Confirmed by Consul evacuation scheme not actual evacuation (DRAGON 2125/27). DRAGON's 1720/27. I support DRAGON in his opinion of situation. There are about 105 British subjects some of whom can move into Nigeria more easily than come to Duala. (C. in C., S.A. 2120/27 0935/28).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Cameroons evacuation. DRAGON. British ships prohibited. (Contd.)

Your 2130/26. Approved to leave Duala am/28. I read your telegram as meaning you are completing an evacuation scheme and are not evacuating British subjects. British shipping is being instructed not to enter French colonial ports in South Atlantic. Any British or British controlled ships in Duala are to sail before DRAGON. (C. in C., S.A. 1303/27 to DRAGON).

Amend present instructions to read that French, British, Allied and chartered shipping should not be sailed for any French Colonial port on S.A. Station. French ships intercepted proceeding to or from these ports should be detained in harbour or sent in to British under armed guard. (S.O.(I) inform N.C.S.O. and Reporting Officer. C. in C., S.A. 1301/27).

DUNVEGAN CASTLE

Your 0052/27. In order that S.L. convoys escort programme is not further dislocated essential DUNVEGAN CASTLE arrive Freetown not later than am/11/8. Request arrangements may be made accordingly. (C. in C., S.A. 0931/27 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Mediterranean - Movements

Movement summary 135. Submarine Patrol. PARTHIAN and OSWALD off Sicilian coast S. and N. respectively of 037°20' N. Battle Fleet leaves Alexandria 2330/26 arriving vicinity of 25° Gavda 60 miles at 0300/28 thence west of Crete returning to Alexandria to arrive 30/7 AS.2 with LIVERPOOL, CAPETOWN and 4 destroyers (corrupt group) 037° 20' N. 023° 40' E. 1500/27 due S.W. of Crete pm/28/7.

ORION from Haifa CHAKLA, FIONA and 2 destroyers from Port Said to R.V. S.W. of Cyprus 0400/27 and arrive off Kastelorizo about 1700, returning after dark in company until daybreak 28/7 when ORION proceed Alexandria remainder ot Port Said, destroyers returning to Alexandria to arrive pm/29.

GLOUCESTER leaves Alexandria pm/28 due Port Said am/29. LADYBIRD expected to leave Port Said pm/29 to arrive Alexandria am/30. (V.A. Malta, 0813/27).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Operations

VALIANT Re forthcoming operation (F.O.C. Force H. 2000/27).

Enemy Intelligence It is reported that two Italian Cruisers, 4 destroyers and a number of submarines were seen patrolling past Skyros and Lemnos pm/26/7. Graded C nought."
(D.D.I.C., 0222/27 to C. in C., Med.)

Mediterranean - Air

Air raid on Alexandria Air raid 0440 to 0500. No damage (R.A.I.C. Alexandria 0915/27).

Air Raids on Malta Series of raids by six single planes at intervals from 0230 to 0420. Bombs dropped in Grand Harbour and Marsa Muscetto. One near miss - Civil Generating Station. Damage negligible, one civilian casualty. Reconnaissance of 10 fighters and 1 bomber flew over at 1115. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 2149/27).

East Indies

ROYAL SOVEREIGN Proposed operation. (1st S.L. 2010/27)
See Medit. Vol.

My 0642 /27 (i) In view of situation Governor General Madagascar has indefinitely postponed sailing from Madagascar of (a) ESPERANCE with supplies for Djibuti (b) BERNADIN DE ST PIERRE for general trade in Madagascar, Mauritius South Africa area. Adty. 2113/19 refers (ii) Acting on orders received from France, Governor General has closed British Vice-consulates Tamatave and Majunga (iii) CAP VARELIA, SONTAY with troops for Saigon, movements as in my 1408/19 of which signal last sentence now inoperative (iv) In view of changed attitude in Madagascar, propose to inform Governor General that unless restrictions on British ships are removed (a) our undertaking not requisition BERNARDIN DE ST. PIERRE will be cancelled (b) troop ship for Saigon will be liable to intercept and to be taken into British port (c) ships which sail for Djibouti will be similarly liable (d) no British or Norwegian ships will be allowed to trade with Madagascar or Reunion (my 0714/11 to

C. in C.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

C. in C. China and Commodore Malaya refers) (v) changed attitude is probably due to expected arrival of new Governor General about 28/7. (C. in C., E.I. 0646Z/27 to Adty.)

China

Evacuee Ships, routeing

Evacuee ships Manila to Australia sailing between 29/7 and 6/8 cannot be escorted. Intend they should be routed through Molucca and Torres Straits where risk of attack should be small. (C. in C., China, 0449Z/27 to Adty.)

3 A.M.C's to be withdrawn

For your information Adty. has directed that KANIMBLA, MORETON BAY and ARAWA(?) are to be withdrawn from China Station. As a first step they will proceed E.I. Station. (C. in C. China 0449Z/27 to A.C.N.B.).

America & West Indies

DIOMEDE DESPATCH Movements

Movements DESPATCH leaves Trinidad ?(a.m.)/31 for Road Harbour Tortola arriving 1/8.
DIOMEDE turns over duty to DESPATCH and sails for Trinidad passing approx. 200 miles to eastward Windward Islands arriving am/4/8.
DIOMEDE is to be temporarily degaussed at Trinidad, estimated time 4 days. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1031/27).
My 1021/26. DIOMEDE extend patrol to 21° N. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1011/27).

Raider

Following from Navy Dept. Begins. Ship closely resembling German raider sighted at 1700/25 40 miles east of Cape Canaveral flying Greek flag with name EVANTHIA accompanied by small black ship with no colours. Steering southerly course ends. (N.A. Washington, 1049/27 to C. in C., A.W.I.).

Lloyds report Greek S.S. EVANTHIA (3551tons) sailed Hampton Roads 22/7 for Port Everglades (Florida) & would be expected to be in the position reported on 25/7 (D.D.I.C. 2341/27). C. in C. America & West Indies informed. (O.I.C.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies (Contd.)

St. Thomas states ALGERIAN reported ship burning full navigational lights in 023° 11' N. 059° 49' W. at 0001/24 name DRIEGERGEN but approx. 9000 tons. DRIEBERGEN was in fact then at Freetown. Netherlands cruiser SUMATRA VANKINSBERGEN informed in my 1715/27 via Curacao. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1703/27 to C. in C. S.W.I.)

Convoy Escorts

Regret normal escort cycle cannot be maintained during next few weeks and following is forecast of ocean escort.

Serial number of convoy	H(?X) Escort	BHX Escort
62	AURANIA	MONTCLARE
63	ASCANIA	ALAUNIA
64	RAJPUTANA	CARADOC
65	VOLTAIRE	MONTCLARE
66	AUSONIA	ALAUNIA
67	LOCANIA	RANPURA

All escorts return Halifax except those for BHX 62, 63 and 65 who return Bermuda.
(F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1426/27 to C. in C., A.W.I., Etc.)

War Diary

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

ANGLO-MAERSK — Danish Tanker, 7705/tons, overdue at Abadan, Iran, since 20 July (D.3. 326)

ELDANGER
Overdue — Norwegian Tanker Overdue at Singapore from Port Pirie. (S.O. I Singapore 0047Z/27 to Adty.)

LORD MIDDLETON
(A/S Trawler) — In collision with Latvian TOBAGO. neither ship seriously damaged. (F.O.I.C. Reykjavik 17.4/27 to Adty.)

EGTON — Overdue since 22/7 (Plate 4/7 for Freetown)

RENA — Overdue since 22/7 (Bahia Blanca 5/7 for Freetown)

WENDOVER — Overdue since 22/7 (Mersey 22/6 for Buenos Aires)

War Diary

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Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WESER HAVELLAND	According to an unconfirmed report these ships, which sailed from Manganilla, Mexico, last week have been given arms and supplies at sea by Japanese ships. (D.S. 326).
CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN	At Las Palmas. Remains at short notice. (Las Palmas 1035/27).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

COMMISSIONAIRE RAMEL	(10061 tons) requisitioned by Adty. has arrived in New Hebrides with British armed guard (Cdr. Port Vila. New Hebrides 2356 Z/27).

War Diary

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Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

SAMBRE	British 5,260 tons) bound for Philadelphia had been in convoy HX.58 (see ships attacked 26/7) before it dispersed, torpedoed about 300 miles N.W. Ireland 56°32' N., 18°12' W. at 0200/27 (Scapa Base ships 0214/27, WINCHELSEA 2205/27, C. in C., W.A. 2034/27, 0257/28 WINCHELSEA). Still afloat (WINCHELSEA, 1800/27).
SALVESTRIA	British tanker (11938 tons) cargo whale oil, mined and sunk near Inch Keith Light at 1750/27. 10 missing, 20 injured. She was just outside channel (DOR 328). Had left Convoy HX.57 after its arrival at Methil. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2039/27, 1855/27).
DURDHAM	Brit. (Sand dredger, 477 tons) mined and sunk 1415 in 51°23'18" N., 3°8'48" W. in shoal waters in Bristol Channel. No survivors.
THIARA	Brit. (10,364 tons) in outbound Convoy OB.188 was torpedoed at 0200 about 300 miles N.W. of Ireland. 26 of crew believed lost, 35 survivors. Ship reported still afloat, tugs sent. 56°32' N., 18°12' W.

Submarines Reported

0340	53°5' N., 5°1' W. (18 miles S.W. Holyhead) possible periscope reported by aircraft.
0340	53°24' N., 4°42' W. (5 miles W. Skerries) (C. in C., W.A. 0758/27).
0208	Between C. Wrath and Faroes. Position indefinite (I.C. 0524/40).
1031	By EMPIRE DEFIANCE 56°30(N., 19°37' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1203/27, Portishead 1030/27)
0200	56°32' N. 18°12' W. Reliable fix. (C. in C., WA. 0243/27, 0246/27).

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Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

North Atlantic

1642 — 32°45' N. 26°33' W. reported by unidentified ship (Gib. W/T 1752/27).

Submarines Sighted off Punta Arenas — My 0809/25. Following from S.O.(I) Montevideo begins. My 0932/24 am informed C. in C. Chilean Navy has stated is entirely without foundation 1801/26. Ends. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1143/27 to Adty.)

Submarines Attacked

0250 — A/S.Y. LADY BLANCHE 53°24' N. 4°32' W. (off Skerries) attacked contact. (I.C. 0524/40)

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Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Humber Force — Revert to normal notice for steam (C. in C., Nore 0853/28)

Clyde Balloon Barrage — Your 2226/24 R.C. for balloon barrage has been made. This barrage however is solely for the protection of River Clyde from mines dropped from aircraft. Reconnaissance did not contemplate any protection whatever for Fleet or Merchant ship anchorage. Which I regard as most important. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1115/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

Cover for Northern and Southern Approaches — Cruiser to be available (see C. in C. H.F. 2148/28, 1716/28, SUSSEX 0801/28) SUSSEX may carry out this task until taken in hand for repairs (A.C.N.S. 1722/28 to C. in C., H.F.)

A.A.A. Aerodrome Defences — Reference our 1645/24. Following received from Fighter Command begins. We can collect 20 Lewis Guns and hand to Fleet Air Arm for defence of five aerodromes with four guns each. Understand Naval Personnel would man these guns as done by Air Force Stations for which defences cannot be allotted from A.A. Command resources. Will this meet requirements. Ends. (Air Ministry 1730/28 to Adty.)

Dover A/A Defences — My 1887/24. Further experience indicates necessity of making Dover a day as well as night artillery zone to obviate delay in opening fire caused by necessity of identifying aircraft. Uncertainty as to their identity has enable enemy to attack unfired at. Considered essential that all possible causes of doubt should be removed so that all aircraft particularly low flying ones may be engaged without hesitation. (V.A. Dover 1745/28 to Adty.)

Night and Fleet Artillery Zones — Agree Admiralty Signal 1301/27 (H.F.C. 2215/28).

War Diary

28.7.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Sloops GLEANER and JASON and Trawler NORTHERN GEM will assist you and your Tow to Clyde. (C. in C., W.A. to SCHILLER, ENGLAND, ENGLISHMAN 1216/28)

NORWAY

Reports her position at 1045/28 as 61° 50' N. 1° 5' E course 280° speed 24 knots (C. in C., Rosyth 1252/28)

Netherlands Aircraft Fleet

My 1801/27. Ships sailed as arranged. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1337/28 to F.O.C.Orkney)

Northern Patrol Extension

An Extension of Northern Patrol to be known as the "Western Patrol" to be established to control W. Coast of Europe and North Africa. Area and instructions. (F.O.C.N.P. 1400/28)

First S.L.

Intended route to daylight 30 July (F.O.I.C.S. 1806/28 to NORFOLK)

Submarines

Positions and movements for the following 24 hours at 0600/29., Area A. TRIDENT, MARSHAL, TRITON, SHAPHER, THAMES H.33 as in my 1718 27th July. TARN, TRIAD both vicinity QJSC 0014 proceeding on surface to Pre Havet and QJSF 4510 respectively TRIBUNE, SWORDFISH, SEALION, JUNIPER, PORPOISE, STURGEON, vicinity PCTA 4535 PCTA 4000 PCTA 3500 PCHF 3500 JZLZ 4040 WLSC 0020 all six proceeding submerged by day to JZLZ 4000 TGLZ 4612 C3 C 1 HQLZ 5817 and H 1 respectively SEAWOLF JZGR 2500 proceeding on surface north east H 44 CPSC 8363 H 50 due Harwich e.m. from Gap E. L 36 and Netherlands Submarine O23 escorted by H 6 due Dundee 0300 from North. Netherlands submarine O21 and O22 leave Rosyth e.m. for Dundee escorted. (V.A.S. 1644/28)

Positions of Submarines and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/29 Area B TIGRIS K.G 4130 TALISMAN escorted by LORD MAILSHAM until 2200 vicinity 1530 proceeding to relieve TIGRIS.

(V.A.S. 1646/28)

/BIRMINGHAM.....

HOME COMMANDS

Movements- Contd.

BIRMINGHAM / SOUTHAMPTON — Intend to anchor off Southend at 2000/28 (C.S. 18. 1732/28 to C. in C., Nore.)

BOLTHORN — In tow of tugs CRESTED COCK and FAIRPLAY escorted by 2 destroyers leaves Harwich for Sheerness at 0400/29. Request Fighter escort from 0600 till about 1300/29. (C. in C., Nore 2222/28)

Heavy Ships screened by Destroyers may be returning to Scapa from 62° N., 3° E at 1800/28 and DEVONSHIRE proceeding from that position to cover Clyde/Iceland Convoy (A.C.O.S. 1625/28)

Operation to Intercept Trondheim Force.

Orders to C.S. 1. — My 2312/27 (If no information of enemy surface force being at sea course to be altered to 290°) If no information of enemy is received continue to Westward until about 1400/28 then proceed so as to pass through position 62° 00' N., 002° 00' E., at 1800/28 thence to Scapa. (C. in C., H.F. 0931/28 to C.S.1.)

Position of Force A — Aircraft reports Force A in position 61° 50' N., 2° 20' E., at 0730/28. Mean course 023° only 8 destroyers were reported in company by another A/C at 0635/28. (C. in C., Rosyth 1108/28)

DEVONSHIRE -to be detached — If no information of enemy is received by 1800 28th July F.O.C. B.C.S. is to assume command of Force A and DEVONSHIRE is to proceed to cover slow convoy in accordance with my 2312/36 (to Iceland) (C. in C., H.F. 1143/28)

RENOWN — Reports her position at 1645/28 as 61° 50' N., 1° 21' E course 330° speed 24 knots (C. in C., Rosyth 1858/28)

/HULL .....

War Diary

28.7.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation to intercept Trondheim Force

ZULU — Aircraft report Force A in position ZQSC 5820, 0730/28 mean course 23°. May alter to 290° at 0800/28 and continue Westward until about 1400/28 then proceed to pass through position 062°00' N., 002°00' E. at 1800/28 thence to Scapa. R.A.(D) H.F. 1145/28 to ZULU.

Information for Submarines — Air reconnaissance this morning shows that enemy cruisers and destroyers have left Trondhjem. TRITON Patrol about 20 miles W. off Kors Fiord. (R.A.(S) 1226/28 to submarines on patrol).

Position of Force A. — My 1108/28. Another aircraft reports Force A in 61°10' N. 3°0' E. at 1720/28, this appears more reliable. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1228/28).

Air Reconnaissances — Orders for air reconnaissance: (i) into Skagerrak up to 10° E. and (ii) of N.W. approach to the Bight for interception of enemy surface vessels. (Donibristle 1400/28).

One Sunderland to patrol north about Faeroes to observe enemy warships which may have sailed from Trondheim after 1200/27. (H.Q.C.C. 1410/28).

Reconnaissance of Skagerrak has nothing to report visibility not yet known. Reconnaissance Lister to 62° N. did not sight anything in good visibility. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1944/28).

1st C.S. — Intended route to daylight 30/7 (F.O.C. 1 C.S., 1606/28 to NORFOLK)

Enemy not located — There are good reasons for believing one German cruiser and light craft left Trondheim during the last 24 hours and reconnaissance has at present failed to locate them. (D.D.D.D.(H), 1656/28 to F.O.I.C., Iceland).

Force A Position — Aircraft report Force A in 62°5' N. 0°30' E. course110° 24 knots at 1620 (C. in C., Rosyth, 1804/28).

War Diary

28.7.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operation PH

Masse Scheldt Patrols

Operation PH is not taking place tonight (V.A.(S) 1529/28 to H.50, H.44).

Iceland Defence.

R.M. personnel of 4" battery to return to U.K. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2102/28 to W.O.)

E-Boats

Boulogne

At 0900/28, twelve and possibly fifteen E-Boats in Harbour. (PIU. 1512/28 to N.I.D.).

Calais

At 0900/28, one E-Boat leaving, and possibly one other at Gare Maritime Quay. (PIU.1512/28 to N.I.D.)

Air

British Air Activity

Night 27/28, oil refineries at Hamburg, Heide, Stade, Borkum, Cuxhaven, Verden, and Balkensee bombed; also Bremen Docks, Wilhelmshaven Dockyard, and Langeland Island. Hits observed and many fires started. (H.Q.B.C., 2000/28).

Air searches for 29/7

R/C of Norwegian coast from 62° N. to Lister; and photo R/C of Trondheim. Escorts for convoys and patrol W.2. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1928/28).

Have attacked one M/V at 57°33' N., 6°34' E. Estimate no hits. (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 2016/28).

At 1823/28 aircraft bombed small M/Vs in 50° N., 8° W. (Plymouth, 2115/28).

Enemy Air Activity

SANDHURST

Request one rescue tug be sailed for Dover forthwith to stand by for towing SANDHURST. (V.A. Dover 1125/28 to Adty.)

War Diary

28.7.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

AJAX — Am being shadowed by one aircraft in 52°50' N. 2°18' E. (AJAX, 1534/28).

VETERAN — Am being shadowed by one aircraft in 52°2' N. 1°51' E. (VETERAN 1933/28).

VERITY — One aircraft bearing 114 distance 3' course 160. Position 52°28' N., 2°37' E. (VERITY, 1936/28).

Possibility of air raids between Humber and Scapa Flow tonight 28th. (D.D.I.C. 1944/28).

Mining

Milford Haven — Closed owing to magnetic mines (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0142/28). One parachute mine seen to drop last night which was exploded by sweeper today. 2 others suspected. 1 other mine suspected to have been laid last week was also exploded. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1950/28).

Dundee — Patrol craft report 2 magnetic mines dropped off entrance to River Tay. Request port may be closed for the present. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 0240/28).

Liverpool — Closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0740/28). Opened 1500. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1505/28).

Plymouth — Closed owing to mines (A.C.W.A. 0744/28, 2352/28).

Invergordon — Explosion possibly of Magnetic mine observed 125° 1½ miles from South Sutor at 0545. Investigation reveals that unidentified aircraft was heard in vicinity about 0200 also that vessels in vicinity who saw explosion believe bombs were dropped but no aircraft seen or heard. Port not closed. Magnetic sweep in progress. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1040/28)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Harwich	5 magnetic mines exploded by LL trawlers in Swin Channel (2 on 27/7, 3 on 28/7). Positions (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1047/28). 5 moored mines cut 27/7 and 28/7 near X. (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 1949/28).
Newhaven	Now open from 0700 to dark. Directions for entry (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1812/28).
Cardiff Newport Avonmouth	Hope to open these ports 1200/29. Directions for entry. (N.O.I.C., Cardiff, 1913/28).
Humber	Closed magnetic mines suspected. (F.O. Humber, 2358/28).
10th M.S.F.	To be dispersed. Details of transfer of vessels. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1214/28).
Mines suspected	4 flashes observed bearing 130° about 2 miles from 51°30' N., 1°20' E. Suspect release of parachute mines. (WINDSOR, 2325/28).

Enemy Intelligence

Zeebrugge	Indications that port no longer blocked. (PIU 1512/28 to N.I.D.).
Prawle Point	Sound of heavy motor reported at 0125/28, 180° from Prawle Point. (C. in C., W.A. 0140/28 to HIGHLANDER).
Emden	21 ships over 200 feet in New Inner Harbour, and 8 ships over 200 feet in Outer and Industry Harbours. About 180 barges in New Inner Harbour. Photographic Report. (H.Q.C.C. 1145/29).

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Trondheim

My 1544. Aircraft unable make R/C of Trondheim owing to bad weather and low cloud. (C. in C., Rosyth 0200/28 to Adty.)
Aircraft leaves Sumburgh about 0400 to reconnoitre Trondheim (C. in C., Rosyth, 0334/28 to Adty.). Air R/C of Trondheim at 0800/28 reports no cruisers or destroyers in harbour. R/C considered reliable. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1208/28 to Adty.). In Trondheim harbour saw one tanker, 3 possible motor boats. Large cruiser previously seen was not there. Saw 3 destroyers steaming up channel towards Trondheim between Hitteren Island and mainland. (Donibristle, 1246/28).

Cherbourg

4 vessels, possibly E.boats, in E. corner of Inner Harbour , and 1 M/V in a basin. All oil-tanks intact. No unusual activity in docks. (Pru. St. Eval, 1630/28).

At 1642/28, 4 M/Vs and 1 armed trawler at 51°51' N., 5°38' W. course 182° speed 8 knots. (Plymouth, 2025/28 to H.Q. 15 Group).

Lister

Many big guns mounted off Lister. (SWORDFISH 2030/28 to V.A.S.).

At 1706/28 in 54°27' N. 6°55' E., 2 M/V's course 310° speed 10 knots. (Donibristle 2120/28).

Little Belt

At 0235/28 between Lydo Island and Mainland a cruiser believed LEIPZIG class at anchor; and many small M/Vs moving in all directions. (H.Q.B.C. 2000/28).

Den Helder

1932/28 one naval ship in harbour, little other activity. (H.Q.B.C. THI 0205/29).

Trawlers

52°30' N., 2°30' E. 2012/28, 4 trawler type ships in "U" formation heading S.E. 52°30' N. 2°15' E. 2016 those similar ships in "V" formation heading S.E. (H.Q.B.C. THI 0205/29).

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Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

U.S. Troopship AMERICAN LEGION — Left New York 25th July for Petsamo. Expected arrive Petsamo 6th August. Unarmed and not in Convoy. Description and Route. (H.Q. Coastal Command 0111/28).

Iceland Convoy — My 1646/26. Convoy sailed at 0212/28 escorted by NORFOLK and WATCHMAN to R/V with VORTIGERN off Mull of Kintyre. Expect arrive Reykjavik 1200/30/7. KEPPEL remains in Clyde with foul propellor. (F.O. Greenock, 0220/28 to Adty.).

Convoy OA.190 — Amended route (C. in C., W.A. 1331/28).

Convoy OB.190 — Amended route. But drastic alteration after dark on 30th July. (C. in C., W.A. 1332/28).

Warning Convoys of air attacks — C. in C., Portsmouth's 1826/28. Concur generally, but remarks. (C. in C., W.A. 1826/28 to Adty.)

Convoy OA.191 — Left Rosyth 0630/28 passing through Pentland Firth. (A.C.O.S. 1625/28).

Convoy TC.6 — Due Clyde 1230/1st. Aug: Details of cargoes. (D.S.T. 2046/28).

Convoy SL.30A — Passing Kinnaird Head. Expect arrive Methil 1030/29. (RESTIGOUCHE 2101/28 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Convoy HX.61 — Route. (D.T.D. 1754/28 to C. in C., W.A.).

Miscellaneous

GOTHENBURG — Your 1916/26. German Adty. wish to route her as shown. To avoid delay I have informed Swedish Authorities that we agree. (N.A. Stockholm, 1925/28).

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Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Evacuees. Asking for destination of civilian evacuees from Gibraltar (C. in C.W.A.1112/28)

Baladier did not leave Casablanca but has requested destroyer again 29/7 or 30/7. VELOX has been withdrawn but will be sent again on receipt of confirmation from British C.C.Tangier of exact date (F.O.C.N.A.1442/28) Arrangements now made for destroyer 30/7 (F.O.C.N.A.1658/28)

South Atlantic

Raider engaged. Enemy was last seen in following position 024°20' South 031°50' West 024°10' South 031°50' West course and speed 180° 15 knots. My speed of advance reduced to 10 knots hole in engine room. (ALCANTARA 1930/28)

Your 1930/28 is the only signal so far received from you (R.A.S.A.D.2118/28)

Your 2118z/28. My 1328z and 1500z reported chase and engaging armed raider. Engagement lasted one hour but damage prevented chase. My present position 024°20' S. 032°40' W. Course 277° Speed 10 knots which can be maintained in fine weather. Casualties two killed Seven wounded. (ALCANTARA 2230z/28)

Request following may be broadcast to British Merchant ships in area. Begins. Raider last seen in position 024° 10'S.031°50' W. at 1930 G.M.T./28 steering 180° at 15 knots. Any British ship sighting raider is to report immediately by W/T. Ends. (C.I.C.S.A.2318/28 to Adty.)

PENTORIA CASTLE Left for convoy duty and subsequently for Belfast (S.O.(1) Freetown 0957/28).

S.L. & S.L.F. Convoys. Your 1821/21. No A.M.C. is immediately available to replace CORFU. As a temporary measure S.L.F. convoys may be sailed so as to effect junction with S.L. convoys near Azores, one A.M.C.only escorting the combined convoys onward to Northern Approaches. (D.O.D.(F) 1947/28 to C.in C.S.A.

Evacuation. Recommending evacuation of Nigeria and Gold Coast by 1 October at latest; by all women and children (G.O.C.West Africa 2130/28)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN D.O.D.(F) 1623/28 see E.Indies.

War Diary

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Sunday

FORRIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Gibraltar Force H — Plans in event of war with Spain (1st Lord 1432/28 to S.O.Force H) See Mediterranean Volume.

Air Raid on Malta — Morning visit by 14 Fighters and one Bomber. One Fighter believed shot down in sea. In afternoon three Sunderlands on reconnaissance chased back by Fighters from Sicily. One badly damaged but hoped repairable. Two more Fighters for certain shot down by Sunderland and one other very probable. One submarine attacked result not ascertained. (V.A.Malta 2211/28)

Ascab — Re. Adty. 2010/27 (C. in C.Med.2215/28)

Operation "HAWK" and ROYAL SOVEREIGN — Description of operation (C. in C.Med.1757/28) See Mediterranean Volume 1815/28)

East Indies

Raid on Aden — Three Aircraft Raided Aden 1130 G.M.T/28 dropping about 12 light bombs in outer anchorage from high level. British ship MATHURA Upper deck hit and depressed eight inches, appears seaworthy, being surveyed. Deck cargo seven lorries wrecked. (C. in C.E.I.1802Z/28)

Targets for Air Bombardment. — Details (C. in C.E.I. 2008Z/28)

French Attitude, Madagascar. — Your 0646/27. Inform Governor General Madagascar that unless the 20 mile restriction on British shipping is cancelled forthwith and that if British shipping is interfered with in any way you will take the action proposed by you in para.IV of your signal already quoted. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1551/28 to C. in C.E.I.)

Operation — Re. C.in C.E.I.1816/5 (C. in C.E.I.1402/28) See Operations Volume.

AGRA — Colombo Radio heard AGRA(Swedish) calling all ships at 1430Z/28. Request whereabouts (C.in C.E.I. 1610Z/28 to D.N.I.)

Additional Oiler required. — I anticipate more cruising and patrol work for ships E.I. Squadron in near future and request that an additional oiler may be attached to the Station. This will extend operational power of C.Class Cruisers and make up for the loss of Liego Sumres as a fuelling Port. (C.in C.E.I.11043/28 to Adty.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — C.in C.Med.1437/26 (Re R.SOVEREIGN proceeding to U.K. via Cape and docking at Durban en route). Request your remarks (D.O.D.(F) 1623/28 to C.in C. E.I., C.in C.S.A.)

War Diary

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Sunday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

MASKI	Yacht. Derelict from Arendal. 4 crew rescued by SWORDFISH at 2030/28. (SWORDFISH 2030/28).
STAUNTON	Trawler. Found sunk at S.50° E. Knoll Buoy 8 cables. Presumed sunk by magnetic mine. last seen 2200/26. No survivors. (C. in C., Nore, 1851/28 to Adty.)

War Diary

28.7.40.
= Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MANZANILLO
COLUMBUS
E WESER
HAVELAND
FRANKFURT

German potential A.M.Cs MANZANILLO, E.WESER arrived 23/7. Unconfirmed report will embark crew of COLUMBUS for Vladivostok, also E.WESER and DONAU or HAVELAND received arms and supplies from Japanese ships at sea. German ship FRANKFURT loading 500 tons coal. (C.O.S. Singapore, 0428Z/28).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ENDERTA
AMBA ALAGI

Italian potential A.M.C. ENDERTA and Italian ship AMBA ALAGI departed Woosung 25/7 and 26/7 respectively. B.1 repetition B.1 report that ships proceeded to Wuhu to load ore and will sail Japan shortly. (C.O.S. Singapore, 0428Z/28).

War Diary

28.7.40.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

AUCKLAND STAR	British (11212 tons) not in convoy, from Australia to Liverpool, torpedoed 0402 75 miles W. Dingle Bay, in 52°17' N., 12°32' W. HIGHLANDER, VISCOUNT to pick up survivors reported in 4 boats. Belgian trawler JOHN probably picking up survivors (OTTAWA 0302/28, Portsmouth W/T 0400/28, C. in C., W.A. 1132/28, 2218/28).
SCHELDE	Dutch tug sunk by submarine while on her way from Campbelltown, Kintyre to assist S.S. SAMBRE (torpedoed 27/7).
DEVONSHIRE	Believed fired at by torpedo 1928 in 61°46' N., 0°34' E. (Sullom Voe, 2045/28).
STAUNTON	Trawler STAUNTON presumed blown up by magnetic mine. Found her two masts about 4 feet showing at 1130 this morning dead low water. Appear to be no survivors. Last seen at 220027 by M.B. SARAWARA. No explosions heard by vessels in vicinity. Position of wreck 50° E. 8 cables from Knoll Buoy. Am taking over H.B. patrol with Yacht GIROFLEE tonight. Submit I retain trawlers VINDILICIA, DRUMMER and SARONTA in harbour until degaussed, as I consider this patrol at present is a dangerous area. 1556/28 Ends. Instructions have been given for these three trawlers to be wiped as soon as possible. (C. in C., Nore, 1851/28).

Submarines Reported

Estimated dispositions	Estimated U/B dispositions: 1 reported 500' W. of Madeira at 1642/27. 1 in 52°17' N. 12°32'W. at 0504/28 outwardbound. 1 reported in 56°30' N., 19°37' W. at 1100/27, probably homeward bound. 1 reaching N.W.Approaches outward bound. Possibly 1 in Irish Sea. 1 N. of Shetlands homeward bound. (D.D.I.C., 1217 /28).
2000	58°45' N., 1°36' E. course 060° (Aircraft 2000/28).
2030	Near Chicken, doubtful report of U-boat and surface craft, steering N.W. (C. in C., W.A., 2247/28).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

0945 Suspected submerged submarine in 56°15' N., 2°15' W. 315° 2 miles (Aircraft 0945/28). ROCHESTER investigating contact. Oil on surface. (ROCHESTER 1134/28). Believed wreck (C. in C., Rosyth, 1225/28 to ROCHESTER).

1500 51°11' N., 4°23' W. (off Bull Pt., N. Devon) by armed Yacht MIGRAN.

2035 56°50' N., 1°34' E. by aircraft.

American & West Indies

0600 By native observers north of island, on surface 4 minutes. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, 1240/28).

Submarines Attacked

1430 61°51' N., 12° 1' W. course 220°, am dropping d.cs (NORTHERN FOAM 1430/28 C. in C., W.A., 1619/28). Submarine periscope sighted on 2 different occasions dropped 3 d.cs. (NORTHERN FOAM, 1450/28).

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Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Your 1444/24. Request personnel allocated as soon as possible. Guns should be emplaced by 10th August (A.C.O.S. 1201/29 to Adty.)

Liverpool A/A Ground Defences

My 1819/22 and Air Ministry 1946/26. Further complaint from F.O.I.C. Liverpool of inaction of A/A Guns during Air Raid at 0307/28. Request immediate investigation and measures to ensure that Enemy A/C in Liverpool Area are engaged at first opportunity. (V.C.N.S. 1405/29 to Air Ministry) Your 1819/28. Information required from F.O.I.C. Liverpool before delay can be investigated. (Air Ministry 1812/29 to Adty.)

Dover Unsuitable for Submarines

Your 1207. Recent experience shows Dover unsuitable as submarine operating Base. Regret must cancel my 1103/27 and also decline H.34. (V.A.Dover 1531/29 to S.O.S/M Harwich) Your 2257/27. Request for concrete roof over Train Ferry Dock being actively investigated. (Civil Lord 1728/29 to V.A. Dover)

Glasgow A/A Defences

Ref. C. in C., Rosyth's 1301/24. Warning organisation should be improved by recent linking of Barrage to Gun Operations Room. Request NLO Turnhouse be instructed to submit written report. (Air Ministry 1545/29 to Adty)

Skaebrae and Twatt A/A Defences

8 heavy A/A Guns and 2 Troops of light A/A Guns, with 6 Searchlights, considered essential. Request immediate action. (A.C.O.S. 2002/29 to Adty.)

Movements

SHEFFIELD

Regret that Air Escort cannot be provided at present owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1256/29 to SHEFFIELD) My position at 2200 is 056° 12' North 007° 32' W., proceeding to Clyde. (SHEFFIELD 2219/29 to CHESHIRE)

LE TRIOMPHANT

To be prepared for sea now with no alteration but fitting of Asdics. (D.O.D. H. 1258/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

/HOOLTAN.....

HOME COMMANDS

Movements. Contd.

MOOLTAN — Escorted by WOLVERINE and WITHERINGTON till dark leaves Plymouth 1800/30 proceeding between Scillies and Lands End. Request Fighter Escort till dark. (C. in C., W.A. 1319/29 to Adty.)

BULLDOG BEAM — Until further orders keep steam at 2 hours notice from 0500 to 2200, and at half hours notice from 2200 to 0500. (V.A.Dover 1541/29 to BULLDOG)

DEVONSHIRE NORFOLK — My 1606/28. To keep 30 miles North and West respectively of Convoy and both ships 30 miles S.E. of line N.P. 55. till fog lifts. (C.S. 1. 1600/29 to NORFOLK) Slow Convoy Clyde to Iceland at 58° 17' N., 10° 14' W at 2000/29 with NORFOLK and DEVONSHIRE as Covering Force. (A.C.O.S. 1900/29)

CHESHIRE CILICIA (For New Western Patrol) — Passed gate at 1610 and 1615 respectively and thence through 55° 39' N 7° W and 56° N. 8° 41 W (Commodore N.P. 1835/29 to FORFAR)

Submarines — Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/30. Area A. THUNDER PRO HAVET TAKU DRUB on surface to relieve TRIDENT NARWHAL vicinity Statlandet on surface to Rosyth TRIAD QSMF 4520 TRITON XMF 1020 SEAWOLF XEMF 1712 SNAPPER PCMF 5020 SUNFISH C one TRIBUNE JZLZ 4000 SEALION NCUB 0520. submerged by day to C 3 SWORDFISH JZUB 4026 submerged by day to TGLZ 4812 PORPOISE E one THAMES TGTA 4550 STURGEON H one and 2 H 44 CPSC 5353 K 28 vicinity Brown Ridge on surface through Gap E to Harwich Netherlands submarines O 21 and O 22 leave Rosyth p.m. on surface to T.G.S.C. 1030 and R.G.S.C. 3020 respectively URSULA leaves Blyth p.m. on surface to H 2. (V.A.S. 1653/29)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

My 1656/28 Enemy Forces not yet located. R/C of Trondheim and to Southward has been good. (A.C.N.S. H. 1303/29 to F.O.I.C. Iceland)

Iceland

Ref. Alabaster Cable C218/28, can Adty. supply further eight 4-inch Guns in Addition to two already in Island and, if so, when can they be made available. (War Office 1434 29 to Adty.)

Operation R.H.
(Mouth of Maas and Scheldt)

My 1110/24. Operation, Patrol A and B to be carried out tonight. Report Boats detailed and proposed time of sailing. (C. in C., Nore 1444/29 to S.O's M.T.B's)

E-Boats

DANEMAN (Trawler) — Am being attacked by Light Forces S. 60° W of Beachy Head 22 miles. (DANEMAN 0044/29) Enemy retreating to Westward (DANEMAN 0046/29 Attack E-Boats at 230° Beachy Head 22 miles (C. in C., Portsmouth 0100/29 to SKATE) Engaged enemy torpedoes missed. (DANEMAN 0110 29) Enemy War Motor Boat 3 by E. Owers 10 miles. (DANEMAN 0315/29)

Boulogne — PRU Sortie at 1900/29 shows 2 E-Boats in Bassin Loubet and 2 more at Quay Chanzy. Otherwise no shipping. (P.I.U. 0055/30)

Air- British Air Activity

Between 0645 and 1211/29 A/C attacked 3 M/Vs at 53° 22' N., 5° 15' E., Barges at 53° 15'N 7° 10' E., and Oil Refineries at Hamburg. (H.Q.B.C. 0222/30)

/Enemy Air Activ

War Diary

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Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Air- Heavy Air Activity

Indications of Heavy Air Attack to be expected about 0700 in Nore Area. (C. in C., Nore, 0531/29)

Dover

Harbour attacked at 0725/29 by about 40 Bombers. GULZAR sunk in Submarine Basin. GROWLAND sunk near detached Mole. SANDHURST hit, fire extinguished, but some damage. Casualties believed slight. (V.A. Dover 0935/29 to Adty.) Details of damage done to Naval Property (Sup. Civil Engineer, Chatham 1358/29 to Civil Lord.) (I.C. 0527/40 gives the number of A/C attacking Dover, including fighters and bombers, as about 30 in all)

BROCK

Have been bombed by 3 or 4 A/C now flying towards Dover (BROCK 1312/29 to V.A.Dover) Six large Bombers flying N.W. of Dungeness. (BROCK 1322/29)

HASTINGS

50 A/C bombing at 51° 52' N., 1° 48' E. (HASTINGS 1716/29) Enemy engaged by fighters (HASTINGS 1721/29)

Convoy AGENT (FH)

Fighter A/C are being sent to assist (Nore W/T 1739/29)

DELIGHT

16 Aircraft attacked H.M.S. DELIGHT at 1835/29 about 20 miles south of Portland Bill. Ship did not receive direct hit but many near misses. W/T put out of action at once and fire started in a forward oil fuel tank and spread rapidly. Both boiler rooms out of action. All confidential books sunk. Large explosion forward at 2130/29. Ship on fire fore and aft but possible after part is still afloat. Total number landed believed 147 includes 1 dead and approximately 33 serious cases. Captain and all Officers saved, gunner badly wounded. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0053/30 to Adty.)
Close DELIGHT bombed at 210° Portland Bill 20 miles (C. in C., W.A. 1929/29 to BROKE and VANSITTART) Request Fighter protection for BROKE and VANSITTART (C. in C., W.A. 2026/29 to H.Q.C.C.) Request report of reasons for sailing DELIGHT at 1486 instead of at dusk (C.N.S. 2350/29 to C. in C., Portsmouth) Your 2350/29 Home Fleet had requested DELIGHT should arrive Clyde a.m. 29th and single Destroyers are often employed in Channel.

/will endeavour... ....

War Diary

29.7.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Air- Enemy Air Activity

DELIGHT (Cntd.) — Will endeavour in future to sail smaller single units so as to minimise time in danger zone, but they may often have to proceed to sea as soon as possible. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1317/30 to Adty.)

Mining

Methil — Possible Parachute Mine seen to fall 159° Methil Red Light 2½ miles at 2130/28. (C. in C., Rosyth 0202/29 to N. O.I.C. Methil)

GADFLY
STURTON
(Dundee) — My 2137/28. Trawler GADFLY badly damaged by explosion and beached. Trawler STURTON also seriously damaged. Mine exploded between them while Sweep being hauled. Anticipate at least 3 further mines on River still unlocated. Port closed till these destroyed. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 2330/28) (To C. in C., Rosyth) (C. in C., Rosyth 0651/29 to Adty.)

Liverpool — Port closed (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0930/29 to Adty.) Port Open (F.O.I.C. 1459/29)

Operation FD 23 — PORPOISE expected to complete Operation about 31st July. (V.A.S. 1011/29 to C. in C., H.F.)

Aberdeen — Proposed to keep S. side of QZ3 12 closed till possibility of delay action in remaining 2 mines exploited. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1012/29)

Milford Haven — Open (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1057/29) 2 mines dropped last night and exploded this morning. Two more suspected. Port closed from Sunset 29th till 1000/30 (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1754/29)

Humber — Open to navigation (F.O. Humber 1206/29) closed. Parachute Mines seen to drop (F.O. Humber 2325/29)

Cardiff
Newport (Mon.)
Avonmouth } — May now be opened (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1228/29)

/Swansea.....

War Diary

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

SWANSEA — Closed, owing to Magnetic Mines. (F.O.I.C Cardiff 1559/29)

Operation GN 32 — Propose to carry out with amendments shown (R.A.M.L. 1622/29 to Adty.)

Harwich — Paddle Minesweepers cut 2 Mines at 51° 44' N., 1° 48 ' E., (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2105/29 to Adty.)

Operation BB 29A — PLOVER, VAN DER ZAAN, and 5 destroyers left Humber 2300/29 (Capt. S.6. 2244/29 to STURGEON)

Enemy Intelligence

Trondheim — R/C at 0810/29 reports one Tanker, one Transport, and one small M/V only in harbour No A/A fire encountered. (C. in C., Rosyth 1123/29 to Adty.) (Donibristle 1255/29 to Adty.) At 1824/29 unknown unit apparently at Trondheim. D/F report. (D.D.I.C. 1900/29)

U-Boats — Information as to their probable tactics. (A.C.N.S. M. 1331/29)

Unknown Unit — Transmitting on frequency used by surface Warships at 1720/29 from unknown Latitude on Norwegian Coast (D.D.I.C. 1800/29)

Borkum — At 1115/29. A few miles N. of Borkum 3 clusters each of 7 or 8 very small stationary ships. (H.Q.B.C. 0222/30)

Terschelling — At 1149/29, three M/V's at anchor all about 10,000 Tons, just S. of Harbour. (H.Q.B.C. 0232/30)

At 1635/29 in 58° 5' N., 6° 34' E., One M/V steering Northwards at 8 knots (Donibristle 2025/29)

At 57° 57' N., 7° 39' E at 1700/29 one M/V course 070, speed 10 knots (Donibristle 2025/29)

At 1700/29 in 57° 59'N 7° 56' E one M/V course 250, speed 8 knots (Donibristle 2025/29)

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

At 1710/29 in 58° N., 7° 10' E., One M/V Coaster of 500 tons, course 045° speed 5 knots. (Denbristle 2025/29)

St. Nazaire — PRU Sortie 29th shows one large Tanker 500 feet long, being worked by crane and some rail activity nearby. (P.I.U. 2228/30 to N.I.D.)

Shipping

Convoy T.C.6. — Request you sail INGLEFIELD and KEMPENFELT to R/V with Convoy at 57° 12'N., 21° 50' W at 2000/30. Route (C. in C., W.A. 0016/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock) Will pass through R/V position at 1630/30. Request you inform Escort. (REVENGE 1023/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Restrictions on Convoys withdrawn — Considered that restrictions on passage of M/V's in Convoy East of 0° 30' E during darkness can be withdrawn. Channel is sufficiently lit by night West of South Foreland. (V.A.Dover 1902/29 to C. in C., Nore.)

Convoy HX 59 A — Passing latitude of Cape Wrath. Expect arrive R/V Pentland Firth 0930/30 (HECLA 2200/29 to F.O.C. Orkney)

Baltic States Shipping — Considering method of preventing Estonian Latvian and Lithuanian ships from coming under Russian control. Pending classification of position Customs and Colonial Authorities have been instructed to find some administrative pretext for preventing such ships from leaving British ports. Ships bound for another British port if on British charter will be allowed to proceed. (A.C.N.S. T. 2337/29 to C. in C's)

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

Raider in South Atlantic

Raider last seen in position 24 degrees 10 minutes south 31° 50' W. at 1930 G.M.T. 28/7 steering 180° at 15 knots. Any British ship sighting raider is to report immediately by W/T. (Adty. 0325/29 to all British merchant ships in areas 6A & 9).

Description of raider and where last seen (Adty. 1552/29 to all Cs in C. abroad, 1827/2 to all British M.Vs in areas 6A and 9).

North Atlantic

Gibraltar W/T Station

Vulnerability. Asking for emergency W/T sets (F.O.C.N.A. 1820/29).

South Atlantic

Convoy escort requirements & 8" cruiser movements

DORSETSHIRE, CARTHAGE, R.S.5.
CANBERRA.
Convoy W.S.2, fast and slow group, CORNWALL and SHROPSHIRE.
CUMBERLAND available for Freetown in place of DORSETSHIRE or may relieve HAWKINS temporarily.
Re 8" cruisers at Cape and Freetown.
V.S.5 RAMILLIES. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1252/29 to C. in C., S.A.).

Raider

Asking for description of raider and state of ALCANTARA's ammunition and armament (R.A.S.A.D. 0101/29). Description of raider and the action 28/7 (ALCANTARA 0359Z/29). Asking that description may be broadcast. (C. in C. S.A. 0940/29 to Adty.). Description of the action (C. in C., S.A. 1000/29). Main armament in tact, 550 rounds remaining (C. in C., S.A. 1302/29), Raider's speed reduced. (C. in C., S.A. 2102/29). Informing G.B.M.S. in 6 and 9 of position and description of raider (C. in C., S.A. 1933/29).

Shipping to continue

Enemy raider in position 24° 10' S. 31° 50' W. at 1930/28. Stop all sailings from Bahia and all Brazilian ports south of Bahia until further orders. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1210/29 to Consuls concerned).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Shipping to continue. (Contd.)

Your 1210/29. As there is little doubt raider has been damaged and speed reduced it is unlikely she will disclose her whereabouts by remaining on Trade routes. Sailings from all ports should therefore be continued. (C. in C., S.A., 1916/29 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro). My 1210/29. Resume all sailings (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1125/29 to Consuls, S. America).

All homeward bound independent shipping is to route W. of a line running from 20° N. 20° W. to 53° N. 18° W., passing S. of prohibited area in my 1637/25/6 to Northern Approaches. (C. in C., S.A. 1801/29 to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent).

Search for Raider R.S.5 — 8" cruisers to be used. Arrangements for escorting R.S.5 to Cape. HERMES, DRAGON (C. in C. S.A. 1930/29). Make every endeavour to arrive Freetown with R.S.5 am/4/8 (C. in C., S.A. to MALOJA).

BRIDGEWATER — To relieve DRAGON at Lagos. (C. in C., S.A. 1205/29).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — Asking his remarks re docking at Durban. (C. in C., S.A. 1010/29 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

Operations DHQY and "Gander" — Remarks. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1403/29 to C. in C. E.I.)

SCIENTIST — (overdue 16/5/40, believed mined off C. Agulhas). Re. lifeboat found on East coast Island. (S.O.(I) Cape Town, 2051/29).

Mediterranean

PARTHIAN — Orders (Capt. S.1 0945/29).

VALIANT — Re A.A. guns to be embarked (A.C.N.S.(F) 1411/29).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — Re 15" ammunition (D.T.S.D. 1437/29).

Air raid on Malta — One raid 9 fighters and 2 bombers in several groups approached and turned back. No bombs dropped. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 2219/29).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Assab	Adty. 2010/27 and S.N.O. Red Sea 1403/28. Request your views (1st S.L. 1014/29).
ILLUSTRIOUS	Asking what aircraft it is intended to embark. High percentage of fighters wanted. (C. in C., Med. 1930/29).
Italian Aircraft	Your tel. 24 July 27. Greek Govt's conduct in releasing aircraft appears unneutral. (C. in C. Med. 1215/29 to British Ministry, Athens.)
Operation "HURRY"	Operations to be carried out by Medit. Fleet in support of "HURRY" (C. in C., Med. 1439/29). See Medit. Vol.
Reinforcements	Request all movements in connection with operation consequent on Adty. 1700/25 may be treated as most secret in accordance with M.W.M. 47, para. 7. (C. in C., Med., 1901/29 to Adty. etc.)

East Indies

Assab	V.C.N.S. 1914/29 to C. in C., E.I. see Operations Vol.
Operation "HATS" and ROYAL SOVEREIGN	C. in C., E.I. 1928/29 see Operations Vol.
Operation by ROYAL SOVEREIGN	C. in C., E.I. 1244Z/29, 1246Z/29, 1924Z/29 see Operations Vol.
Convoy WS.1	Arrived Ceylon (Capt. I.C. Ceylon, 1302Z/29).
Evacuation	1. Question of evacuating service families from Middle East to India is again under consideration; has been suggested that convoy BS.3 sailing from Egypt on about 25/8 would be suitable. 2. It would be the intention subsequently to transfer the families to South Africa as soon as shipping and escorts (if the situation so required) become available. 3. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1839/29 to C. in C., E.I.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

Information re ships' movements C. in C., E.I. 1048Z/29.

Air raid on Aden Aden bombed by 5 planes 1200Z. No naval damage. Target obviously fuel tanks all A.A. fire short. (S.N.O. Red Sea 1651/29).

China

Dutch Submarine O.14 Now refitting will not be ready for sea until end of August. (S.N.O. Curacao, 1056/29).

America & West Indies

Suspicious Tanker American Ship PACIFIC from Cape Town reports tanker loaded painted grey no gun no flag similar to Norwegian ship FERNCOURT steering south time position 007° 52' S. 029°50' W. 0730/18 course appears suspicious B.1. (N.C.S.O. Trinidad 1158/27 to C. in C., A.& W.I. S.O.(I) Kingston).

N.C.S.O. Trinidad's 1158/27 Norwegian tanker FERNCOURT though larger is very similar in appearance to German tanker WINNETOU which left Las Palmas 9/4 and has not since been reported. This might be the suspicious tanker seen steering South on 18/7 in 007° 52', 029°50' W. at 0730/18 by American ship PACIFIC. (D.D.I.C., 0958/29 to C. in C., A.W.I. & S.O. (I) Kingston).

Convoy call signs C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1224/29).

Australia

Troops Reply to A.C.N.B. 0204/24 is given in Tel. No. 271 of 27/7 to Govt. of Australia (D.O.D.(F) 1841/29 to A.C.N.B.). C'wealth Govt. agree to despatch of troops mentioned in 0204Z/24 leaving Sydney (date) (A.C.N.B. 1126Z/29 to Adty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

Convoy U.S.4 — Ships for Australian requirements AQUITANIA, MAURETANIA, ORCADES or EMPRESS OF JAPAN. (A.C.N.B. 0745/29 to D. of S.T.)

War Diary | CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS | 29.7.40 Monday.

BRITISH INVENTOR (mined 13/6)	Request Fighter protection from 1930 till dark for 2 Tugs with BRITISH INVENTOR leaving Portland about 1930/29 for Southampton (F.O.I.C.Portland 1630/29 to Admiralty).
MONTROSE (bombed 27/7)	Cancel my 2222/28. Sailing of MONTROSE delayed. (C.-in-C. Nore 0802/29 to A.O.C. in C. Fighter). Take over escort of MONTROSE at 0730/30 in position X from WIDGEON. (C.-in-C.Nore 2314/29 to VESPER)
VINEMOOR. (torpedoed 26/7)	Derelict, stern awash, sighted 1400/27 July at 55°25'N. 16°5'W. by s.s.CAVINA. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1756/29 to C.-in-C.W.A.) (Admiral Devonport 2033/29).
GRACEFIELD Overdue.	British, 4631 tons, overdue at Freetown since 24 July. (D.S.329).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WESER / EISENACH — Press report from San Diego, passengers in British ship LOCHMONAR state crew of WESER and EISENACH indicated ships were preparing to sail for Germany via Cape Horn. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1731/29).

Traffic through Sound — Adty. 1933/27. According to information (B.1), German vessels proceed both ways Swedish territorial waters and not in convoy. (Consul, Goteborg, 2011/29).

German vessel — German vessel arrived at Santander. (Consul, Santander, 1850/29). Request for further details, name, etc. (D.D.I.C., 1053/30). Possible this might be the KONIGSBERG, which sailed from Para, Brazil, on 28/5 with cargo of rubber. (I.C., 0527/40).

ITHAKA — Arrived Istanbul 29/7 with cargo of 2,000 tons manganese ore from Russia. (I.C., 0527/40). (C-G.Galati THI 1649/29).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FULGOR — Sailed am/29 for Cadiz (Huelva 1300/29).

LANULII — Arrived Fiume 25/7.

PORTOFINO — Arrived Fiume 27/7.

PEPI — Left Fiume 26/7.

BEATRICE O / S. MARIA / REGLIGIANO — Left Fiume 27/7.

VANENTINO CODA — Left Fiume 28/7.

LANTLII — Left Fiume 29/7.

(Susak T.H.I. 1930/29).

War Diary

29.7.1940.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

VILLICOR (Torpedoed 26/7)

Vicinity of reported position searched without establishing contact. Request present position of tug ENGLISHMAN. Am searching towards Rathlins (?JASON 1080/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

CLAN MONROE

Magnetic mined and sinking in 51° 52' N 1° 48'E. (HASTINGS 1515/29) Back broken but not settling. Survivors in DUCHESS OF FIFE proceeding Lowestoft. 3rd Engineer and 19 Idians missing. D.G. thought to be on. Cargo Ore. (HASTINGS 1540/29) Consider ship could be towed. (H.N.Tr. HARRISON ordered to Harwich with defect (HASTINGS 1600/29) Ship was in FN convoy. SAINT OLAVE has CLAN MONROE in tow proceeding very slowly towards Harwich am standing by (GUILLEMOT 2030/29)

MOIDART

Mined in 51° 59' N., 1° 49' E., sank immediately, 5 survivors out of crew of 16 in SS WIMBLEDON, SS JULIAN III and PINTAIL, 2 of those in PINTAIL unlikely to recover. No damage in air attack. (BLACK SWAN 1720/29 2018/29, C. in C., Nore 1901/29)

LEACH's ROMANCE

N.O.I.C. Newhaven reports:- LEACH'S ROMANCE completely blown up 10 1/2 miles due south of Kemp Town, was hauling Trawl at the time and had been Alongside. Appears mine was hauled up in trawl. Two mines were sunk between 5 and 6 miles south of this position during the winter. None closer no sign of a U-Boat about. Ends. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2149/29)

OUSEBRIDGE

British SS OUSEBRIDGE (5601 tons) mined at 0930 today in position 800 feet 005 degs. from Q 5 Red Buoy Queens Channel. 2 of crew presumed killed 3 injured. Ship has floundered in 28 feet of water LWOS. Back broken. Cargo iron ore. Channel swept continuously by day. (F.O.i/c Liverpool 1440/29)

/SKATE.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked (Contd.)

SKATE	SKATE reports attacked with torpedo at 0420. Subsequent investigation revealed no E-boat. Consider it to have been U-boat. 4 attacks carried out by ACHERON SKATE and DANEMAN led to oil rising. Position 220° Beachy Head 17 miles now being watched by DANEMAN. First contact is wreck in a position 220° Beachy Head 17. Second contact is very near this and is doubtful. (ACHERON, 0942/29). Nothing more seen and no further contact obtained. Search abandoned. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1641/30).
THIARA SAMBRE Torpedoed 27/7	84 survivors landed at Liverpool by WINCHELSEA (WINCHELSEA 1405/29, Capt.(D) Liverpool, 1635/29).

Submarines Reported

Estimated U/B dispositions	1 between Madeira and Canaries or even farther S. 1 reported in Dingle Bay, or may be in Western Approaches. 1 or possibly 2 in N.W. Approaches. 1 N. of Rockall homeward bound. Possibly 1 between Faroes and Iceland. 1 in 61°46'N., 0°34' E. at 1928/28 may be returning to Bergen from a cruise (Passed to Submarines on patrol (V.A.(S) 1208/29). 1 in 60°05' N., 4°22' E. at 0226/29 outward bound from Bergen. 1 in 56°50' N., 1°34'E. at 2035/28 outward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1314/29).
0230	60°5' N., 4°22' E. (about 35 miles S.W. Bergen) by H.M. Ships
2035/28	By aircraft 56°50' N. 1°34' E. course 330 presumed U-boat (C. in C., Rosyth, 0018/29)
0528	50°29' N., 0°18' E. (15 miles S. Beachy Head) (SKATE 0528/29)
0448 } 0607 }	By aircraft 59°28' N., 1°58' E. Probably TAKU or TRIAD. Further submarine reported by aircraft 59°19' N. 2°12' E. steering 335° p.s. only seen. This submarine might be U-boat or again TAKU or TRIAD (0/269, 0448/29, 0510/29 C. in C., Rosyth 1030/29, 1024/29).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported

0226	360° 5 miles 60°0' N., 4°22' E. approx. course 290° (TRITON, 0226/29).
1050	By D/F 58°45' N., 4°0' E. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1134/29).
2050	By A/S trawler 58°42' N. 5°35' W. (F.O.C.O.S. 2222/29).
0445	Off Mizen Head, 51°26' N., 9°50' W., C.4 report. (I.C., 0527/40).

Submarines Attacked

By SEALION	250 tons U-boat in position 58°27' N., 4°24' E. course 210° unsuccessfully engaged with torpedoes and guns. Visibility extreme cloudy 1/5. (SEALION 2100/29).
By ACHERON SKATE, DANEMAN	See ships attacked - SKATE.
By ST.LOMAN 28/7	1945, 1955, 2114. Forced to surface before being submerged approx. 55°30' N., 7°0' W. HURRICANE to join at daylight 30/7 to ensure complete destruction using electrically fired d.c. if practicable. Still in contact 0621/29, oil covers area 2 miles by 150 yards. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0125/29, 0800/29, C. in C., W.A. 1857/29, 1859/29). ST. LOMAN unable to hold contact owing to bad weather and asdic conditions, posn. of submarine 55°39½' N. 5°57' W. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2215/29).

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Ships to revert to usual notice. (C. in C., Nore, 0935/30).

Defences of Solent and Isle of Wight — Recent immunity of Portsmouth and Southampton from bombing and minelaying point to probability of enemy attempting to create a bridge head at these ports in event of invasion. Importance of defence of Isle of Wight is therefore strongly emphasized and strengthening of fixed defences covering eastern and western entrances to the Solent is considered essential. It is understood guns can be made available. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1157/30 to Adty.)

Night Artillery Zones — Request reply to Adty. 1301/27. If proposals are concurred request Adty. may be informed when it is proposed they should be promulgated as it is desirable that authorities in all services should be informed at the same time and in similar terms. (D. of L.D. 1829/30 to Air Min.)

Dover Balloon Barrage — New Balloon Barrage will be flying from 0001/31 from land sites within 3 miles radius of centre of harbour (H.Q.B.C. 2010/30 to Air Min.)

Shetlands — Highly desirable that approaches to Scalloway should be defended. Suggestions for siting of 2 4" guns and 2 12-pounders. (F.O.C.S. 2219/30 to Adty.)

Policy

On account of the present intense enemy air activity in the Channel ships should only proceed to sea by daylight in this area for operational purposes. Passages such as ships proceeding from or to Dockyards for repairs should as far as possible be made in the dark. (V.C.N.S. 1333/30 to C. in C.'s.)

Movements

2 destroyers to remain on D. Patrol, till further orders. (C. in C., Nore 0347/30 to VETERAN).

Groups 2, 5, and 6 to remain at half an hours notice for steam. (C. in C., Nore 0401/30).

12th M.S.F. — Adty.'s 1214/28. 12th M.S.F. to be based on Harwich and operated by F.O.I.C. Harwich.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

12th M.S.F. (Contd.)

If and when Harwich Harbour too congested, vessels may be sent to Lowestoft by arrangement with F.O.I.C. Yarmouth. (C. in C., Nore 0943/30 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

Anti E-Boat Measure

3 M.A.S.B's to join convoy F.N.37 off Smith's Knoll as additional escort. (C. in C., Nore, 2004/30 to LOWESTOFT)

E-boats

At 1042/30 in 51°20' N., 3° E., 3 small M.T.Bs (THI.0432/31).

La Rochelle)
La Pallice) PRU. Sortie 30/7 shows no E-boats in harbours or off-shore. (PUI.0048/31).

Air

British Air Activity

Channel Mobile Balloon Barrage

Particulars. (see Shipping).

Norwegian Coast

Intended that Sections of 3 Skuas shall carry out short harassing actions on Norwegian Coast against shipping, Fuel, Supplies, and Targets, avoiding main centres. These raids will be referred to by Sortie Numbers 1,2 and 3 of which descriptions given. (A.C. Orkneys 1155/30 to Adty.)

At 1430/30 aircraft attacked 1 M/V of 1000 tons at 59°24' N. 5°12' E. Believed damaged. (Donibristle, 1735/30).

Dover Balloon Barrage

Considered Water-borne Balloons cannot be spared from Southend without impairing Barrage efficiency. If 6 B/B craft urgently needed at Dover consider drifters should not be sent, though towage of dumb lighters will be difficult. A strong Barrage at Southend is particularly desired.
(Fighter Command 1430 to C. in C., Nore)
(C. in C., Nore, 2324/30 to Adty.)

War Diary

30.7.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Enemy Air Activity

MACKAY — Am being shadowed by 1 Enemy aircraft at 49°30' N., 10°36' W. (MACKAY 0902/30). Again at 49°30' N., 10°14' W. (MACKAY, 1104/30).

Convoy PILOT — Being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft. My position 51;59' N., 1:50 E. course 350 speed 6 knots. (LOWESTOFT 1309/30). Fighters have left (Nore W/T 1320/30). Am being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft at 51°31' N., 1°13' E. (VALOROUS 1334/30). Aircraft bombing. No hits. My position 51°31' N. 1°18' E. (VALOROUS 1335/30).

Convoy BOOTY — Being attacked by enemy aircraft at 51°32' N., 1°6' E. (STORK 1338/30). Fighters have left (Nore W/T 1355/30).

ORLOCK HEAD — British 1563 tons, bombed at 0230/28 in 58°44' N., 4°21' W. crew abandoned ship in lifeboats and were landed at Scrabster, 4 dead and 3 severely injured. Ship sank at 320° Strathie Point 6.7 miles (A.C.O.S. 1545/30 to Adty.)

ROWSLEY — Trawler, attacked by aircraft at 0200/28 in 58°41' N., 3°40' W. No damage. (A.C.O.S. 1545/30 to Adty.)

Belgian trawler 088 — Attacked by aircraft at 1030/30 when West of Bull Roads, South Ireland. 7 bombs, no hits. Slight damage by machine gun. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1305/31 to Adty.)

Mining

Spurn Point — Red mine exploded by LL trawlers 122° Spurn Pt. lighthouse 3.3 miles. One mine exploded spontaneously about 4 cables N.E. of Chequer Shoal Buoy. (F.O. Humber 0910/30).

Harwich — LL Sweepers exploded magnetic mine in 51°55' N. 1°21' E. at 0521/30. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0917/30 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Humber — Open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 1023/30).

Inchkeith — 2 drifters, each with 5 inch 4 barrelled machine gun ex FORTH, will be used for offensive night patrol where mines have been dropped. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1035/30 to Adty.)

Kites in parachute patrol craft — N.O.I.C. Leith suggests fitting one P.P.C. with a kite to be flown at 1000 feet as experiment, possibly with lethal attachment to kite. Request consent of fighter command for trial of kites. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1035/30 to Adty.)

Milford Haven — Open (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1039 to Adty.) 2 magnetic mines dropped last night. Possibility of others. Port will be closed from sunset tonight till 1000/30. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1854/30 to C. in C., W.A.)

Belfast Lough — 1 red magnetic mine detonated 060° North Briggs Buoy, 11 miles at 1200/28 by SOUVENIR. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1110/30 to Adty.)

Mounts Bay — 2 parachute mines dropped on night 29/30 at 50°7'4" N. 5°30'42" W. Position confirmed. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1202/30 to Adty.)

6 magnetic mines dropped night 29/30 July. Since my 1645/29 2 mines detonatednear Draystone Buoy. (C. in C., W.A. 1436/30 to Adty.)

Liverpool — 1 magnetic mine detonated 100 yards from Q.8 Black Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1721/30 to Adty.)

CORBRAE detonated magentic mine at 51°29'51" N. 1°0'24" E. (C. in C., Nore 1723/30).

Sweep from Z to X, through Y — Moored mine cut and destroyed at 51°56' N., 1°47'30" E. Another cut and destroyed at 106° shipwash L.V. 4.5 miles. 2 moored mines cut and destroyed between "Z" and "X". (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1917/30 to Adty.)

Sweep between X and Y — Moored mine cut and destroyed at 51°43' N. 1°49'12' E. Another in sweep in same position. (F.O.I.C. Harwich

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Plymouth — Cancel my 2352/28 (Port closed owing to mines) (A.C.W.A. 2028/30).

St. George's Channel — C. in C., H.F. 1229/29 (No A/A cruiser available for operation SN.32) and Adty. 1938/29 (Operation SN.32 postponed for 48 hours). Request CALCUTTA be made available to act as A/A cruiser for Operation SN.32 to give protection in Irish Sea. (D.O.D.H. 2148/30 to C. in C., W.A.).

Explosion — At 1232/30 in 51°20' N. 6°13' W. Aircraft observed a "terrific explosion" in sea one mile to southward. No ships near and nothing seen afterwards. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1350/30 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Langeoog Island — About 4 miles North of Langeorge Island a tanker 6000 to 7000 tons. Aircraft report. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0428/30).

At 0636/30, five minesweepers at 54°57' N. 7°7' E. course 180° speed 7 knots. (aircraft 220 Sqdn. 0735/30). Later 2 more minesweepers ahead of first 3. (Donibristle, 1015/30 to Adty.).

Texel — 7 small ships, all under 200 tons, ¾ mile off south end of Texel. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1100/30 to Adty.)

Brest — No change. Small craft in La Penfeld river still numerous. No activity of Railway Station. (PRU. St. Eval 1210/30).

Dunkirk — At 1041/30 Harbour nearly empty and little movement. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1305/30).

Calais — At 1050/30, 4 very small M/Vs in basin. No movement in harbour (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1305/30).

Boulogne — At 1100/30. Small cargo vessel N.W. of Harbour. Harbour looked empty. (A.C.H.Q. 1305/30).

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Dieppe Le Touquet	At 1115/30. Nil. (A.C.H.Q. 1305/30). At 1145/30, 2 small ships, possibly Flak, at 52°56' N. 4°41' E. stationary. Aircraft report. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1335/30 to Adty.) At 0415/30 at about 52°5' N. 3°5' E., M.T.B. 28 sighted an unknown ship, believed warship, bearing 315° distant 5 miles, at high speed on course 240°. (C. in C., Nore, 1451/30 to Adty.)
Stavanger	4 Flak ships and 1 escort. Vessel entering Stavanger. (Aircraft 224 Sqdn. 1500/30). At about 58°27' N. 5°50' E., 1 M/V about 3000 tons just off shore with decks awash. Aircraft report. (Donibristle, 1730/30 to Adty.) At 2103/30 in 50°22' N. 3°40' W. 1 M/V about 2500 tons course 180° speed 15 knots. Aircraft report (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2253/30). At 0607/30 in 51°24' N. 3°23' E. a ship of 5000 tons at anchor. (THI.0432/31).
Dieppe	At 1042/30, North of Dieppe, one ship 6000 to 7000 tons heading East. At 1145/30, 4 trawlers heading E by N. (ENM THI. 0432/31).
Flushing	At 1010/30, 4 ships, largest 5000 tons, in harbour (THI. 0432/31).
Enkhuizen	At 1245/30, 2 ships in dock, 1 a patrol vessel (THI. 0432/31).
Ostend	At 1727/30, 15 miles off Ostned, 7 small ships heading W. (THI. 0432/31). At 1713/30, 5 miles off Ostend, convoy of 7 M/Vs heading S.W. at 8 knots. No escort. (THI. 0432/31). At 1715/30, 8 to 10 barges in lock entrance to canal. (THI. 0432/31). At 1740/30 in 51°20' N. 3° E. convoy of 6 or 7 small ships with a larger ship leading, heading S.W. (THI.0432/31).
Ymuiden	At 1254/30, 20 Barges covered with tarpaulin in harbour. (THI. 0432/31).
La Pallice	Liner CHAMPLAIN wrecked in Roads, and 1 large steamer, 2 medium and 10 small in harbour on 30/7. (PIU.0048/31).
La Rochelle	About 40 small steamers (PIU.0048/31).

War Diary

30.7.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoy OG 40 — Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1244/30)

Convoy WN 4 — Intend sailing about 0900/1st August 38 ships. Request Air Escort. (F.O.Greenock 2123/30)

Channel, Mobile Boom Barrage — Approval given. Consists of 6 ex-French tugs and two Belgian Pilot Boats, based on Sheerness, under operational control of C. in C., Nore. Object to protect Convoys from Dive-bombing between Southend and Falmouth. Not anticipated ready for sea until 2nd August. (A.C.N.S. N. 2218/30 to C. in C's)

Convoy CE 8 — To be sailed Falmouth to Dartmouth today so as to make passage during dark hours as far as possible. (A.C.N.S. T. 1545/30)

Convoy OA. 192 — Destinations. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0931/30 to Admty.)

Until further orders no more ships are to be sailed from West Coast ports to Falmouth for onward passage in C.E. Convoys. (D.T.D. 1214/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Convoy OA 193 — Route (C. in C., W.A. 1253/29)

Convoy OG.40 — Route (C. in C., W.A. 1252/29)

Convoy OG.39 — Sailing Telegram (C. in C., W.A. 1216/29)

Convoy OB 191 — Cancel my 1349/28 and 1654/26. Route (N.C.S.O Liverpool 1202/29)

Convoy SLX.62 — Amendment of advance Sailing Telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney 1231/28)

Miscellaneous

PHILIA — Foreign, 4000 to 5000 tons, reported anchored ~~Southwardmost~~ inside Tuskar Light at 2100/28 Customs Water Guard thinks her German. Bound to Waterford and Cork. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 1445/30 to Admty)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Casablanca French Reports — A French aircraft arrived yesterday from Casablanca. Summary of report by Sergeant Pilot:-

Majority of Aircraft in Morocco are now at full fighting strength. Aircraft at Casablanca are being flown to outlying districts to avoid being in contact with German and Italian missions now there. Great majority awaiting order from one of their own authorities to transfer themselves to British control in order to fight actively against the Germans.

There are 2 groups at Dakar complete in every respect (34 bombers approximately in all and more may be expected) who anxiously await orders to move. Rapid action in contacting these Units is essential.

Contact with North Moroccan Unit can probably be made from Gibraltar as an address in Fez is available for the purpoise. Can Agent be slipped into Dakar from Freetown? (F.O.C.N.A., 1724/30)

M. Daladier — My 1658/28. Consul General, Tangier, reports evacuation is impossible to carry out. Destroyer has returned to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1758/30)

Raider — Unknown German Unit, believed enemy raider, was in vicinity of 35° N., 45° W., at 0010/30 B.S.T. (D.D.I.C. 1382/30)

South Atlantic

STRATHAVEN / ATHLONE CASTLE — M. of shipping 1810/18 and Adty. 1753/18. Neither ship yet arrived. Request I may be informed if any change of plan. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1613/30)

Convoy Escorts — Adty. 1252/29. No mention is made of homeward voyage of W.2 and W.3 from Capetown vide D.S.T. 2157/27/6. Intentions for CUMBERLAND and DORSETSHIRE, which will leave only one 8" in cruiser on station. (C. in C., S.A., 1040/30)

/Shipping Routes.....

War Diary

30.7.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

Shipping Routes

Cancel my 1935/2 and its amending signals 1313/12 2253/14 and 0930/18. Westward bound independently routed shipping is to be routed West of line joining 20° N., 20° W., 46° N., 19° 30' W., 53° N., 18° W., and East of line joining 38° N., 23° W., 48° N., 23° W., 54° 30' N., 20° W., Thence to Southward of prohibited area given in my 1637/25 to Northern Approaches, navigating between meridians of ;7° W., and 15° W., during daylight on account of liklihood of meeting Southbound Gibraltar convoys between these meridians. Northbound convoys from Freetown may be encountered throughout route. Ships bound for East coast ports should be sent to Clyde, and ships for British Channel to Milford Haven for instructions, all by Norther Approaches. Routes A G one to five on chart C B 01671 B are cancelled. (C. in C., S.A. 1135/30)

Polish Ships, Escapes

Polish Ship KROMAN, Captain Dybek, arrived here today having broken out of Dakar last Saturday night, 27/7. Main stop valve of engine had been removed by French authorities but ship's engineer fitted with temporary arrangement. On being ingformed by Polish Consul that Germans in Dakar intended seizing his ship, the captain decided to break out which he did by pumping out ballast and escaping over outer net. He had no charts. I have personally congratulated the captain. This makes the 6th Polish Ship to leave French West African ports, 3 from Dakar, one from Konakri and 2 from Kaolack in Salum River. (C. in C., S.A. 1912/30)

ALCANTARA

Damage repairs to be carried out at Rio de Janeiro. (C. in C., S.A. 1340/30)

Raider

Unknown German Unit, believed enemy raider was in vicinity of 35° N., 45° W. at 0010/30 B.S.T. (D.D.I.C., 1352/30)

Brazilian Base

Despite repeated requests Alma do Prinidade is under no Brazilian surveillance whatever. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1609/30)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Dispositions By 1950/25. Orders for sailing from Gibraltar of HOOD, VALIANT, ARGUS, cruisers and destroyers, arrangements for docking, etc. (D.O.D. (H) 1926/30)

VALIANT To be taken in hand by Cammell Laird, Liverpool. (D.O.D. (H) 2146/30, to F.O. Force H.)

RENOWN Main Force By 1950/25, para 2 (a) RENOWN will sail for Gibraltar as soon as exchange of flags has been made. Para 3, owing to administrative requirements now decided that main force will not sail from U.K. until later (dates) (D.O.D. (F) 1235/30)

Operation "Hurry" Summary of intentions for Operation "Hurry", by Force H and ARGUS. See Mediterranean Volume. (F.O.C., H., 1430/30)

Roumanian Seizure Roumanian Govt. seizure of British tanker LOWTHORPE, Standard Oil Co., loading gas oil for Turkey, in spite of written guarantee to our legation last week that British tankers would not be interfered with. (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1318/30)

Enemy Intelligence Convoy 3 ships, thought to be troopships, escorted by 6 destroyers passed through Straits of Messina at 1400 today. (OSWALD, 1530/30)

PANDORA / PROTEUS } Route to Malta. (F.O. Force H. 1650/30)

Greek Ship Sunk The Greek ship HERMIONE, 440 tons, bound for the Dodecanese with a cargo of 300 tons of aviation spirit and 200 tons of lubricating oil, was intercepted in the Aegean Sea at 2030/28 by NEPTUNE. As NEPTUNE and SYDNEY, which was in company with her, were heavily bombed, between 1945 and 2010, after being shadowed in 37.30 N., 24.25 E., the HERMIONE was sunk by gunfire as a military emergency. The Master and crew were left in boats not far from land having stated that they were all right and required no assistance. (C. in C., Med., 1535/30) (I.C. 0528/40)

/Spanish Sistuation

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Spanish Situation

German Maritime staff reported new Spanish-Portuguese Protocol appears definite gain. Anti-German feelings increasing, take expression as anti-Falangist. General mobilisation rumours without foundation. Leave normal. Naval disposition normal. (N.A., Madrid, 2242/30)

Operation "Hats"

Remarks on C. in C., Med., 1757/28 (F.O. Force H., 2111/30) See Mediterranean Volume.)

Air.

Spanish Territory

Established that Italian aircraft are violating Spanish territory, which necessitates A/A fire in direction of Spain. Consider am amply justified in using emergency landing ground for fighter aircraft. Request for six Hurricanes to be sent immediately. Landing ground is not suitable for operation this type of aircraft day or night. Meantime, am endeavouring obtain loan from V.A.A. of three Skuas. R.D.F. has arrived. (Governor, Gibraltar, to W.O., 1627/30)

Malta Raid

A small formation of enemy aircraft approached Malta a.m./30 but turned back when fighters went up. (I.C., 0528/40)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

French Shipping

Admty. 1661/26 and S.O.I., Capetown's 0958/21. Governor General Madagascar, has been informed if I do not hear by 1200Z/31 that restriction has been withdrawn. French ships SONTAY and CAP VARELLA will be liable to be intercepted and taken into a British port. SONTAY believed still in Madagascar. (C. in C., E.I., 0608Z/30)

Enemy Targets

Adty. 1914/29. I assume targets referred to are oil tanks and mining stores as stated East Indies letter No 1078/E.I. 5137 dated 3rd November, paras 29 (i) and (j). S.N.O. Red Sea confirms. (C. in C., E.I. 0714/30)

Adty. 1914/29. Position from intersection 13° 00' 47" N., 42° 44' 57" E. on plan 73 C.B. 1712, January 1936 (Modifications re barracks, batteries, sunk oil tanks, etc.,) Attention is called to shoals off shore not shown in this plan. (S.N.O., Red Sea, 0730Z/30, to C. in C., E.I.)

Enemy Cargoes

Cargoes of German and Italian ships at Mormugao may be transhipped to neutral vessels. India Office has been requested to arrange for any such action to be reported to you. (D.S.W.D., to C. in C., E.I., 1459/30)

Suspicious Signals

My 1610/28. Bearings of call signs from KENT, 1551/22, 035° from position 28° 35' S., 45° 14' E., 1519/26, 239° from position 08° 31' S., 72° 56' E. Ship also heard on 26/7 but no bearings obtained. All times G.M.T. (C. in C., E.I. 1056/30)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Suspected Raider

Unknown enemy unit was in vicinity 35° N., 45° W., at 0010/30. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0901/30) My 0901. Establish patrol forthwith, DESPATCH up to 800 miles along the line 40 degrees from Trinidad. DUNEDIN up to 800 miles along the line 45 degrees from Sombrero. DIOMED up to 800 miles along line 45° from Hanna. Fuel as necessary at Tortola, Bermuda or Trinidad. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0951/30)

My 0951/ Patrols are intended to cover independent routes to Caribbean Sea. Request information whether routes covered are those by which ships are now proceeding. (C. in C., A.W.I., to Admty., 1111/30)

Troop Convoys

Requesting reply to his 1921/24. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD now Montreal and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND arrives 31/7. Prospective dates for embarkation and sailing. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1516/30 to Admty.)

Submarine Report

Your 1754/29 (sent by War Registry asking for a repitition of message 1237/27) Regret my 1015/28 repeated to you in error. My 1237/27 advised Jamaica submarine seen by Master schooner 2300/24, 15 miles off Point Saline, Grenada, proceeding south-west. (N.C.S.O., St. Lucia, to Fairmiles, London, 1055/30, received from Min. of Shipping 1830/30).

French Ships

Approximate requirements of officers and seamen for PRESIDENT SERGENT and SAINT BERTRAN Engagement terms as outlined in Admty. 2310/1(and S. of S. for Colonies circular maritime 34 of July 16, including immediate advance of pay. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1562/30)

French Trade

Situation regarding trade with French Antilles On July 12, I informed Admiral, Martinique, that I was willing to allow French ships to trade locally. On July 27, I informed him I was also willing to allow British Allied shipping to trade with his Island and requested guarantee. Admiral, Martinique, replied today as follows, "For Allies, no difficulties, for others I study the question No British or Allied ships are being allowed to call at French Antilles or French Guinea till further orders (C. in C., A.W.I., 1901/30)

/Slow Convoy.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies. (Contd.)

Slow Convoy

Estimated that about 100 ships per month below convoy speed in addition to existing numbers will be loading in Canada, Newfoundland and North American ports between now and end of October. Therefore decided to run a slow convoy every 8 days from Sydney C.B. to the Clyde. Ships of speeds between 7½ and 9 knots are to be included and should commence assembling at Sydney as soon as possible. Ocean escort will be one sloop. Number of ships in convoy should not exceed 30. Request you will report anticipated date on which first slow convoy can sail. Further signal will be made regarding escort. Designation of these convoys is to be S.C. (D.T.D. 2013/30 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

KONINGIN WILHELMINA Sunk

Netherlands authorities report KONINGIN WILHELMINA, 300 tons, sunk after explosion 29/7, 8 miles from La Guayra. Master reports possible cause torpedo but authorities consider unlikely. Ship recently sold by Surinam Govt. Captain has a bad record and is generally considered untrustworthy. More probable ship was sunk with a view to obtaining insurance. (S.N.O. Curacao, 1152/30)

Australia

Reloading Ships

Admty. 0124/27, re arrangements for re-loading ships, etc., Arrangements satisfactory. Gordon informed. (A.C.N.B., 1011Z/30) Your 0540/22 and 1056Z/29. Military authorities have been informed and appreciate arrangements made. Question re cargoes. (A.C.N.B., to C. in C., E.I., 1255Z/30)

War Diary

30.7.1940.
Tuesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

ABA — British, 1937 tons Due Capetown 26th July not arrived. (S.O. I. Capetown 1108/30 to Admty.)

CARPENBY — British, 4890 tons, collided with unknown object at 0030/30 at 336° Hammond Knoll L.V. 8 miles. Slight damage. (STORK 1115/30 to C. in C., Nore.)

HATO — Dutch, 399 tons, collided with unknown object at 0030/30 at 336° Hammond Knoll L.V. 8 miles. Left convoy FS 35 and may be badly damaged. (STORK 1115/30 to C. in C., Nore.)

STRATHNAVER
ATHLONE CASTLE } Admty's 1753/18. Neither ship has yet arrived. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1613/30 to Admty.)

FOLKESTONE — A/S set has defects. Can only keep Hydrophone watch. Your 1213/29. Maximum endurance for Convoy work, not allowing for bad weather, is 18 days. (FOLKESTONE 2201/30 to C. in C., W.A.-)

KONINGIN
EMMAKADE — 300 tons, Surinam to La Guayra, reported sunk after explosion on 29th July 8 miles from La Guayra. Believed sunk for insurance by Master. (S.N.O. Curacao 1152/30 to Admty.)

War Diary

30.7.1940.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

EULER — Vice-Consul, Gijon, reports EULER sailed from Musel near Gijon between 27/7 and 28/7. (Consul, Vigo, 1600/30) EULER arrived here 30/7 from Gijon and sailing tonight for San Sebastian on way to a French port. (Biord, 1832/30) My 1850/29. Vessel supposed to be EULER sailed last night. (Santander, 1900/30)

Tanker — German tanker is alongside oil quay ostensibly to unload gas oil. (Consul, Vigo, 1100/30) Tanker is discharging petrol. Understood Spanish monopoly has bought cargo about seven million litres. (Consul, Vigo, 2230/30) Tankers at Vigo are BRAKE, ANTARTIS, NORD ATLANTIC and NORDMEER.

GERMANIA — Tanker, still at Porta Delgada on 30/7. (I.C., 0528/40)

DUBURG — 2676 G.T., reports she will arrive at Stettin at 0700/31. Is trading in Baltic. (I.C., 0527/40)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

VENDANIA — 6640 G.T. Arrived at Haifa in prize 29/7. (I.C., 0528/40)

FULGOR / GARDA } Anchored 7 miles off Huelva and arrangements being made for them to move to Cadiz. (I.C., 0527/40)

War Diary

30.7.1940.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

CLAN MENZIES — British, 7336 tons, torpedoed and sunk, 53.10 N., 14.00 W., at 0015/30 (Hughes, Master, CLAN MENZIES, 1113/30) 35 of crew and 2nd Captain landed, 51 missing. Was homeward bound independently from Sydney, N.S.W.

Submarines Reported

U-Boats are believed to be using French Atlantic ports. (R.A. (S) to TIGRIS and TALISMAN, 1648/30)

2329 — D.F. Unknown enemy unit, probably U/B outward bound, 57.50 N., 5.20 E., unreliable fix. (D.C., 0021/31)

2206 — Between Hebrides and Iceland, position very indefinite. (I.C. 0528/40)

Estimated Dispositions:-

1 Somewhere between Madeira and Cape Verde Islands.
1 in Western Approaches.
1 or possibly 2 in N.W. Approaches.
1 N. of Scotland homeward bound.
1 possibly between Faroes and Iceland
1 North of Shetlands outward bound
1 N. of Orkneys outward bound
(I.C., 0527/40)

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands

Dover

A balloon barrage is to be provided for Dover without delay.

KASHMIRE
Damaged

KASHMIR was damaged early this morning in collision with M/S Trawler KURD, and will require docking as she has been rendered unseaworthy. KURD continued her patrol. NIGER was today reported to have been damaged in collision with a trawler.

NARWHAL
Overdue

NARWHAL left Humber 22/7 to lay mines off Christiansand, since when no signal has been received from her and she did not reply to signal on 30/7. It is presumed she is lost.

E-Boats

Recent reports indicate that enemy surface craft, including E-Boats, are operating by night in the Western Channel, though it has not yet been possible to obtain contact with them. C. in C., Western Approaches has asked for a flotilla of M.T.B's or fast motor boats to be transferred to his command.

Blockade

The extension of the British blockade to cover the whole of Europe and North Africa was announced by the Govt. yesterday. France and Algeria, Tunisia and French Morocco will be blockaded as enemy controlled territory. No navicerts for futher oil imports to Spain are being issued.

An order in Council dated 17/7 was published last night, extending the blockade to the air. Civil aircraft will in future be subject to the same treatment as merchant vessels.

Estonian Ships

Under a law of 27.7.40., Estonian ships are forbidden to enter British or United States ports without permission of the Estonian Government. Captains not obeying orders of the Government to take ships home are regarded as traitors, whereby members of their families are made responsible. Ships outside the Baltic are to proceed immediately to U.S.S.R. ports unless otherwise ordered.

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT (Contd.)

Air

Our aircraft attacked shipping in the Zuider Zee today; results were not observed A convoy off Nordeney was attacked, and near misses obtained on the leading ship. Six E-Boats were attacked at 1600 and near misses claimed.

Enemy reconnaissance aircraft were active in the Channel and Western Approaches today, reporting shipping, but only one attack is reported. MOOLTAN on passage Plymouth to Freetown was attacked three times and damaged by near misses; she is proceeding to Liverpool for repairs.

Bombs were dropped in Barry Docks about 2330/30, and slight damage was caused to the railway.

Mining

Blyth Port closed this morning, following explosion of a mine. Port opened p.m.

Milford Haven: One magnetic mine exploded th this morning. Port to be closed from Sunset until 1100/1/8.

Tees & Hartlepool: Ports closed this forenoon following detonation of mine by drifters. Ports reopened 1700.

Swansea & Port Talbot: Ports opened p.m. and closed a few hours later following discovery of a mine.

Mines were exploded today in the Harwich area and North Shields.

Dundee, Tyne-Blyth inshore Channel and Kyles of Bute are still closed.

WHITSHED was mined early today, but arrived at Harwich stern first under her own steam later in the day.

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT (Contd.)

Foreign Stations

Raider Report

A signal was intercepted at 1130 G.M.T. from SS DOMINGO DE LARRINAGA (British) that she had sighted a disguised merchan t ship raider in 5° 26' S 18° 6' W while on passage from Bahia Blanca to Freetown.

ALCANTARA

The Brazilian authorities have agreed to ALCANTARA undergoing repairs at Rio de Janeiro and remainingnfour days.

SS CAP VARELLA

Until further orders British ships are not to be allowed to proceed to Indo China ports in view of the possible reaction which may result from the interception of SS CAP VARELLA with troops from Madagascar for Saigon.

Mediterranean & East Indies

Tobruk

H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., reports that an analysis of the results of a photographic reconnaissance of Tobruk harbour made on 24/7 indicates that one of the ships sunk during the raid on 20/7 was a submarine.

A report originating from an official of the Italian Embassy, Madrid states that the battleship CESARE, mistaken for the HOOD, was bombed and severely damaged by Italian aircraft. She reached Genoa with difficulty whereupon the sailors attacked the airmen. Other reports say that the CAVOUR has been damaged by Italian aircraft.

So far as is known, Italian surface warships were inactive throughout the past week A possible explanation may be the necessity for conserving fuel.

Cruiser Reported

A cruiser of the BANDE NERE class was reported by A/C 85 miles S.E. of Malta. Swordfish striking force sent to make attack at dusk failed to locate the enemy. The visibility was not very good at the time.

/Summary of.....

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT Contd.

Foreign Stations

Summary of Week's Operations.

C. in C., Mediterrancan has sent a summary of the last week's operations, which include the passing of the Aegean convoys, AN 2 and AS 2; the latter was heavily bombed on 29/7 from 0800 throughout the day; Fighters from EAGLE shot down one Italian aircraft.

No surface forces or submarines were sighted by any of our ships during the ~~stay~~ operations of escorting and covering the convoys and providing diversions off Castelorizo on 24/7 and 27/7. All our forces were under air surveillance for a great part of the time, except the forces demonstrating off Castelorizo and when darkness or subterfuge threw off the enemy reconnaissance. The C. in C., Med., reports that the cardinal needs for his operations are fighters over the fleet, R.D.F., and action against enemy aerodromes.

Operation "Hurry"

Force H., including ARGUS and 10 destroyers left Gibraltar this morning for operation "Hurry"(to fly off Hurricanes from ARGUS for Malta) The Mediterranean Fleet consisting of two groups ORION, NEPTUNE, SYDNEY and 3 destroyers, and MALAYA, EAGLE ROYAL SOVEREIGN and 8 destroyers left Alexandria today to carry out diversions in connection with the operation.

PANDORA left Gibraltar at 2200 today with base personnel and stores for Malta.

Air Raid On Malta

Malta was raided at 0945 by one bomber and several fighters. One enemy fighter was shot down. At 1835, a raid was made by 9 bombers and five fighters, but no bombs were dropped, the object being evidently reconnaissance or training.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Nore Command — Owing to low visibility, available ships keep steam at half hours notice. (C. in C., Nore 0407/31) Revert to usual notice for steam (C. in C., Nore, 1101/31)

Liverpool A/A Defences — Your 1353/30. Times of Air-Raids on 16, 19 and 22 July with times of A/A Batteries opening fire. Submitted that no delay in opening fire can be accepted if Minelaying is to be prevented. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1048/31 to Adty.)

Dover Balloon Barrage — Your 0430/31. In view of urgency of providing effective defence for Dover, considered that 3 Drifters and 2 power barges must be lent from Southen Barrage as a temporary measure. Request necessary arrangements be made with authorities (A.C.N.S. H. 1111/31 to C. in C., Nore)

Adty. 1111/31. Request permission sail 5 balloons close-hauled in 3 Drifters and 2 Power Lighters in tow of Tug for Dover leaving Sheerness 0500/1. Fighter protection during passage requested. (C. in C., Nore 1424/31 to Fighter Command) An armed Yacht or Trawler should accompany Balloons as Gun Escort (C. in C., Nore 1426/31 to Commodore Sheerness)

Your 1424/31. Permission given. Fighter protection under consideration. Request expected time arrival Dover. (H.Q.F.C. 1750/31 to C. in C., Nore) Your 1426/31. Considered undesirable that latter part of passage be made in daylight. Request all be sailed to pass N. Goodwin at 2100/1. (V.A. Dover 1853/31 to C. in C., Nore)

Intend to sail Balloon Drifters CITRON ex FORTIS and LAVINIA with balloons close hauled and power barges JAMES H and CATHERINA with balloons close hauled in tow of tug ST. CLEARS at 1400 tomorrow Thursday for Dover under Command of Group Officer in H.M.D. BYNG. H.M.T. MILFORD PRINCE to R/V at Thames Boom Gate at 1500 and act as close escort at W/T guard. Expected time of arrival Dover 0100/2. Request Fighter Escort during passage may be arranged. (Commodore i/c Sheerness 2230/31 to C. in C., Nore.

/My 1426/31.....

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Dover, Balloon Barrage, Contd.	My 1426/31. Amend time of sailing to read about 1430 so as to pass North Goodwin Light Vessel at 2100. (C. in C., Nore, 1950/31 to Cdre. i/c Sheerness)
Dover U.P. Barrage	Effect of use during Dive-bombing Raid on 29/7. (D.T.S.D. 1219/31 to C. in C., H.F.)
Channel Mobile Balloon Barrage	(See Air)
Night and Fleet Artillery Zones in Harbour	Arrangements as to Approach and Recognition of A/C to come into force on abolition of existing Zones at Noon on 3rd August 1940 (Air Ministry 1443/31 to Air Commands) Adty. 1301/27 Proposal agreed (War Office 1037/31 to Adty.)
Destroyer Patrols in Dover Area	Recent experience of enemy air activity in the Straits and Channel and the small number of ships available in the first D.F. calls for a reconsideration of existing arrangements of Destroyer Patrols in the Dover Area in the approaching dark night period an the following proposal is put forward. That the first D.F. should come under the operational control of C. in C., Portsmouth and form part of a striking force with Portsmouth Destroyers. This force to be at sea during the hours of darkness ready to act in either or both areas as circumstances require as ordered by C. in C., Portsmouth. If the force or part of it is ordered into the Dover Area it should come under V.A. Dover. (V.A. Dover, 1137/31 to Adty.) V.A.Dover's 1137/31. Request your very early remarks. (D.O.D. H. 1929/31 to C. in C's Portsmouth, Nore, and V.A.)

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy.

French Ships

Request you report by signal:-
(A) Names of French Ships British manned that are now serviceable.
(B) Dates by which other French Ships British manned will be serviceable.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1246/31 to C. in C., Portsmouth

I am not at all satisfied that we are moving quickly enough with regard to bringing the French Ships inro commission. Strongly recommend meeting at Admiralty at an early date to decide on many outstanding questions. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1507/31 to Adty.)

Reference Admiralty message 1246/31.
(A) The Following French ships, British manned are now serviceable:-
BRANLEBAS, IMCOMPRISE.
(B) Other French ships British manned.
LEOPARD UNDERGOING REFIT
CORDELIERS serviceable at 12 hours notice one boiler.
LA FLORE) undergoing refit
MELPOMENE) commissioned 29/7
MALOUINE) undergoing trials 1st August.
C.H. 41 engines correct but not swung
C.H.5, 6 and 7 in hands of private contrator for repairs.
C.H. 10, 42 and 43 undergoing repairs.
C.H. 13 and 14 seaworthy.

The Chasseurs have no degaussing and no asdics.

Commissioning orders have been issued for:-
AMIENS, ARRAS, EPINAL, CHEVREUIL, CAPRICIEUSE, DELIGENTE, but no British Ratings at present available from this Depot. Serviceable date unknown as no trials have been made since turning over.
(C. in C., Portsmouth 2236/31 to Adty.)

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMAND:

Movements

Your 1926/30. Submit that before alterations in the composition of H.F. destroyer Flotillas are carried out Immy be consulted. I Suggest that if absoltely necessary to carry out further reorganisation of the flotillas so soon after the last one, ENCOUNTER also be brought home and changed for an F so that some stabilisation may result. (C. in C., H.F., 1135/31 to Adty.)

SUSSEX

With three shafts and paravane streamed, SUSSEX can make good 27 knots (SUSSEX 1212/31 to C. in C., H.F.)

Patrol Q

Tonight 31/1st August VETERAN, VERITY, WORCESTER. (F.O. Number 1615/31 to JUPITER)

Submarines

Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/1/8. Area A.

TAKU	Fro Havet		
TRIAD	Q S M F		4520
TRITON	Q S M F		1020
SEAWOLF	X Z M F		1712
SNAPPER	P C M F		5025
SUNFISH	C One		
SEALION	C 3		
TRIBUNE	J Z L Z		4000
PORPOISE	J Z L Z		1545
SWORDFISH	T G L Z		4812
THAMES	Y G T A		4550
Netherlands	S/M O.21	R Q S C	3020
Netherlands	S/M O.22	T G S C	1030
STURGEON	H One		
H. 44	C P S C		5353
URSULA	Y Z S C		5533
Submerged by day to H. 2.			
SPEARFISH	T G V D		5020
On surface to relieve SNAPPER			
TRIDENT	G B T A	On surface to Rosyth.	
TETRARCH	Leaves May Island 2200		
On surface to relieve TRITON.			

(V.A.S. 1648/31)

Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600 1st August Area B.
TALISMAN K Q Q G 4130. TIGRIS J B A V 3 030 proceeding on surface to Falmouth 0600 2nd August. (V.A.S. 1649/31)

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations- Iceland

KARIN THORDSEN has landed British Staff Officer and others at Seneri. WATCHMAN and VORTIGERN have been sent to intercept and bring to Reykjavik. If found, should she be sent to Kirkwall (F.O.I.C. 1310/31 to -Adty.)

Convoys being held up through Tents and Accomodation arriving after the Troops. Request future arrivals of personnedl may be preceded by necessary accommodation. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1316/31 to Adty.)

Operation P.J.

(Mouths of Maas and Scheldt)

Units 1 and 2 of M.T.Bs to patrol tonight. Instructions and details. (C. in C., Nore 1444/31 to S.O. M.T.B's Felixtowe)
6 M.T.Bs will be leaving Harwich about 1930/31 returning about 0700/1. (C. in C., Nore 1521/31 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

1734 — Unidentified submarine reported heading south 15' S.W. of Cape Wrath. (Scapa W/T 1734/31) Wash only seen. (Base Ship, Scapa, 1852/31)

1711 — W.S. (IV) post Scourie reports unidentified submarine breaking surface off Handa Island, heading for south at 1711. (C. in C., W.A. 1659/31)

1753 — 55.45 N., 9.20 W., position reliable. (I.C., 0529/40)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions:-
1 probably somewhere between Madeira and Cape de Verde Islands. No report since 27th July.
1 in Western Approaches; may be moving South
1 reaching Western Approaches from the north
Possibly one in N.W. Approaches.
1 reaching N.W. Approaches outward bound, possibly via The Minches.
1 West of Hebrides outward bound.
Possibly one between Faroes and Iceland.
(D.D.I.C. 1847/31)

Submarines Attacked.

0123 — GLEANER attacked contact in position 55.47 N., 17.14'W. Possible U-Boat may try to escape on surface. (C. in C., W.A. 0123/31 to ships in Area B.) Considered contact was a whale. (GLEANER, 2000/31) Orders to GLEANER, etc., (C. in C., W.A. 2106/31)

1327 — By WALKER and PERIWINKLE (see JERSEY CITY, ships attacked) Searched area without result. (WALKER, 1429/31)

2000 — Aircraft reports over enemy submarine in position 56.08 N., 9.37 W., at 1945. Later reported attacked, result unknown, at 2000 (15 Group, 2210/31) (C. in C., W.A., 2227/31)

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LARISSA / CORDELIA	Arrived Galatz. (Consul-General, Galatz 1209/31)
GUSTAV DELIS	Reported left Bari 22/7. (I.C., 0529/40)
INGO	Due to arrive Dubronik 1/8 (S.C.I., Alexandria 1810/31)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MAYA	Arrived from Batoum, cargo petroleum. (Vice-Consul, Varna, 0908/31)
LIBANO	1529 tons, seized at Gibraltar, has been ordered to the Clyde and is to be renamed EMPIRE RESISTANCE (C.S)
FELCE	5639 tons, seized at Haifa, sailed from there 31/7 for Port Said. (N.C.S.O. Haifa, 1700/31)
GENUSALEMME	8052 tons, has completed disembarkation of passengers and discharged cargo at Laurenco Marques and declared the voyage at an end. (I.C. 0529/40)
ANTONIO LOCATELLI	Sailed for Port Said (NCSO Haifa 1700/31)
BOLSENA	Arrived Dubrovnik to load 5,000 tons copper. (S.C.I., Alexandria, 1810/31)
CONTE VERDE	At Shanghai. Local proposal to hire as floating hotel for 3 months, contract to be cancelled "should hostilities cease meanwhile" (I.C. 0529/40)
GIUSEPPINA CHIRAFDI	Tanker. Owners asking Soviet Freight Office, Moscow, for employment for this ship in inter-Black Sea traffic. (I.C., 0529/40)

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

JERSEY CITY — British, 6322 tons, torpedoed in position 55.46 N., 9.30 W., (WALKER, 1228/31) WALKER and PERIWINKLE attacked contact with 4 patterns. Contact lost. Search continueing. Rescue ship picking up survivors. Salvage impossible. (WALKER, 1327/31, 1429/31) In convoy O.B. 191, in ballast for Hampton Roads, Va. A/C reported position as 55.45 N., 8.54 W. CITY OF GLOUCESTER standing by. JERSEY CITY sank 1410 (C. in C., W.A. 1680/31)

STALHEIM — Norwegian. 1298 tons, mined at 1034/31. off Port Talbot. Ship sank. of 18 survivors, 13 are in hospital. (D.S., I.C. 0529/40)

WHITSHED — Mined early 31/7. Arrived at Harwich stern first under her own steam later in the day. (D.O.R)

Submarines Reported

1045 — Aircraft report 57.31 N., 6.43 W., at 1045/31. (C. in C., W.A. 2128/31)

1045 — Unidentified submarine reported half a mile North of Dunvegan Head at 1045. (C. in C., W.A., 1211/31) Shore report (C.4) (I.C. 0529/40)

0300 — Submarine reported in position 54.32 N., 12.20 W., at 0300 (C. in C., W.A. 1301/31)

1228 — 55.46 N., 9.30 W., (JERSEY CITY torpedoed) HURRICANE to hunt. (C. in C., W.A., to N.O.I.C., Greenock, 1313/31) My 1313. A/C reports correct position 55.43 N., 8.54 W., (C. in C., W.A., 1611/31) HURRICANE sailed (N.O.I.C., Greenock 1634/31)

0030 — 53.32 N., 12.20 W., Reported by ATHLONE CASTLE (B.4.) to flying boat (A.C.H.Q., Plymouth, 1330/31)

0500 — 51.31 N., 04.14 W., Reported by motor boat (C.4) (I.C. 0529/40)

1536 — 55.50 N., 8.30 W., Position indefinite (I.C. 0529/40)

/1734.....

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

MOOLTAN — Damaged by aircraft. Proceeding to Liverpool for repairs. (C. in C., W.A. 2357/31 to C. in C.S.A.)

KASHMIR — In collision with M/S trawler KURD. Arrived Humber 0450/31 leaking in No.2 Boiler room. (F.O. Humber 0455/31 to Adty.). Ship unseaworthy. Will require docking. (Capt. D.5. 0545/31 to Adty.)

LADY SLATER — Examination steamer. Caught fire last night and became total loss. No casualties. (Capt. Jamaica 0800/31 to C. in C., West Indies).

NIGER — In collision with H.M. trawler LAUREL. Holed on port quarter above waterline and D/G gear damaged. (F.O. Humber, 1145/31 to Adty.) DOR says this occured on 30/7.

NARWHAL — No signal from her since leaving Humber 1600/22 to lay FD.22. Must be presumed lost. Consider FD.22 should be assumed to have been laid. (V.A.S. 1224/31 to Adty.)

WOOLSTON — Has been sent ahead to Tyne with Condenser trouble. Anticipate she will repair defects and sail with convoy FS.38. (FLEETWOOD 1505/31 to N.O.I.C. Tyne).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies (Contd.)

Convoy Escorts

My 2013/30. Owing to very heavy calls one escort vessels in home waters, necessary for DUNDEE and PENZANCE to carry out ocean escort duty with the new S.C. convoys. Escort Force will be administered by C. in C. Western Approaches. PENZANCE and DUNDEE to come under his orders on arrival at Sydney, C.B. (D.O.D.(F), to C. in C., A.W.I., 1659/31).

French Ships

N.A., Washington 2338/30 (no trace in Adty.) Request early decision whether French vessels named may be intercepted in event of my having a ship available, or whether this would be politically inexpedient. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2242/31, to Adty.)

Australie

U.S.4 CANBERRA

S.N.O. Simonstown's 2345/30 and my 1030Z/24. Latest date for CANBERRA to arrive Fremantle to avoid delay to U.S.4. Question of fitting spare propeller shaft at Sydney, involving only slight delay to sailing of U.S.4. If alternatives in S.N.O. Simonstown's 2345 adopted, considered another ship would be required for escort of U.S.4 (A.C.N.B., 0825Z/31), to C. in C., S.A.).

FOREIGN STATIONS

China (Contd.)

Cables — Cable and Wireless report that Shanghai-Nagasaki cable is interrupted. No cable communication with Japan, but W/T communication London-Osaka is working. (C.T.C., no T.O.O./31).

French Oil — Your 1202/29. Oil supplies from Trinidad to Guadeloupe and Martinique should be withheld pending further instructions. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C. in C., A.W.I., 0002/31).

CARADOC — To patrol H.X. convoy route to Bermuda. Will escort B.H.X. 64. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1101/31).

Estonian Ships — Adty. 2337/29. Intercepted cable from Tallinn Minister of Economic Affairs to James Richardson, Shippers, Montreal, and Malone and Co., Three Rive s. Forbids ships flying Estonian colours under law of 27.7.40 leaving or entering port without permission of Estonian Govt. Captains not obeying orders Estonian Govt. to take ships home are regarded traitors, whereby members of families and near relatives are made responsible. Forbidden to enter U.S. or British ports without permission of Estonian Govt. Any captain leaving or entering port abroad without permission will undergo penal servitude for life. We inform you that ship under your command is being let on lease to Sovfracht. Ships outsdie Baltic will immediately proceed to U.S.S.R. ports provided Sovfracht not arranged otherwise. Ships in American ports will enter into touch with local agents of Amtorg. (Naval, Ottawa, to Adty., 1109/31).

French Guiana — Curacao states Dutch Guiana authorities report Govt. of French Guiana wish to submit to Petain Govt. People against this. Fear internal disturbances will result in large part of pen population including convict settlement crossing into Dutch Guiana. Military opinion divided. Rumour QUERCY ship's company have imprisoned officers and sailed to England to place ships at disposal of De Gaulle. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1608/31)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

French Ships — If French ships SONTAY, BERNARDIN DE ST. PIERRE, or CAP VERELLA are encountered, to be taken into a British port and further instructions requested. Any French ship proceeding Djibuti to be similarly dealt with. (C. in C., E.I., 1144/31).

Madagascar — Adty. 1551/28. As no reply has yet been received from Governor-General, Madagascar, have informed him through British consul that action is being taken accordingly. (C. in C., E.I., 1148/31).

Air Targets — My 1244/29. A.O.C. indicates target definitely not worth while. Only two dispersed A/A guns thought distinguishable and other emplacements empty. (C. in C., E.I., 1208Z/31).

COLOMBO — To leave patrol at 0400Z/2/8 for Mombasa. (C. in C., E.I., 1542/31).

Shipment of Stores — Your 1226/26. Arrangements for notifying in advance despatch of service stores. (D. of S.T. to C. in C., E.I., 2137/31).

Red Sea — Re Reuter messages commenting on Italian lack of activity against British naval forces in Red Sea. May incite Italians to greater action which will be all to the good provided Red Sea Force is allowed to remain at its present strength. (C. in C., E.I., 1134Z/31).

China

French Troopship — CAP VARELLA, from Madagascar to Saigon with 1500 Annamite troops, due to pass Sunda Strait 1/8, to be intercepted and brought into Singapore. TENEDOS to assist in interception. (C. in C., China, to MORETON BAY, 1541/31). Interception may cause reaction against British shipping into Indo China. Inform N.C.S.O's your area that British ships should not be allowed to proceed to Indo China ports until further instructions are received. (C. in C., China to S.O.Is Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Singapore. 1543Z/31).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Operations 22-30/7 (Contd.)

10. A.S.2 which had been passed during the night was heavily bombed from 0800/29 onward throughout the day. Fleet was then 40 miles to eastward. Fighter support sent back from EAGLE shot down one bomber. Fleet was also bombed at 1400. Gladiator concerned forced landed, pilot rescued. LIVERPOOL hit by one unexploded bomb one killed, 2 wounded. No other hits obtained.

11. Conclusions (a) No surface or submarine forces sighted by any unit. 2. unconvirmed s/m attacks. (b) All our forces were under air surveillance for a great part of the time except when darkness or subterfuge threw off enemy reconnaissance. That bombing was not more frequent was due to enemy inaccuracy in reporting position of our forces. Important problem to be solved is how to direct fighters on to enemy shadowers. Any information on this subject as a result of home experience would be valuable. (c) The cardinal needs for our operations are fighters over fleet, R.D.F. and action against enemy aerodromes.
(C. in C., Med., 1537/31).

Mediterranean - Air

Malta Raid

Between 0945 and 1000/31 Malta was attacked by 9 fighters and 1 bomber. Raiders were engaged by 3 British fighter aircraft. Bomber turned back and 1 fighter shot down. No bombs dropped. One of our fighters was shot down but the pilot ~~escapte~~ escaped by parachute and was picke up by an R.A.F. speedboat. (D.S.)

East Indies

CARTHAGE Mozambique Channel Patrol

To leave Mombasa 3/8 for patrol being establishe for protection of shipping passing through Mozambique Channel and south of Madagascar. Will be required mid-August to escort Convoy R.S (C. in C., E.I., 0658/31).

Adty. 1252/29, para A. Am assuming CARTHAGE will take over escort of R.S.5 at a R.V. in Durban area. If CARTHAGE has to meet R.S.5 at Cape Town period on patrol vide my 0658/31 will be considerably curtailed, which seems undesiral in present circumstances. (C. in C.,E.I., 0706/31).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Operations 22-30/7 (Contd.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Convoy — A.S.2, Port Said and Haifa portions, arrived. (N.O.I.C., Port Said, ~~123~~ 1253/31).

PANDORA — Left Gib. 2130/31 in accordance F.O. Force H. 1650/30 (S.O.I. Gib., 2222/31).

Operations 22-30/7 — Summary of operations 22nd to 30th July.

2. F.O.C. 7th C.S. in LIVERPOOL, CAPETOWN and 4 destroyers escorted A.N.2 up Aegean. Convoy shadowed but not attacked.

3. R.A.(D) Medit. in ORION and 2 destroyers demonstrated off Casteloritzo on 24/7 as a diversion. Not sighted from air nor any action by defences.

4. A second demonstration also made on 27/7 during passage of A.S.2 force being accompanied by CHAKLA and FIONA representing transport, this also apparently not sighted from air and ~~xxxxx~~ produced no action from defence despite firing of star shells.

5. Fleet consisting of 3 battleships EAGLE 2 cruisers and 10 destroyers sailed early a.m./27 to give distant cover to A.S.2 Fleet sighted by airc aft 1310/27 and shadowed. Attacked 5 times between 1830 and 1930, 63 bombs dropped. Bombing accurate but no hits 2 minor splinter casualties in SYDNEY.

A.S.2 with same escort as for A.N.2 started from Dardanelles 0700/27.

7. Fleet turned north west at 0100/28 when 60 miles south west of Crete and sighted A.S.2 at 0915/28. Latter first reported by enemy aircraft at 1930/27.

8. NEPTUNE and SYDNEY detached at 1000/28 to intercept Greek ship HERMIONE on passage to Dodecanese with petrol, see my 1455/21 para A. NEPTUNE sank ship at 2050/28. Both cruisers heavily bombed in Thermia Channel. No damage or casualties.

9. Fleet turned again to south eastwards at 1200 when 60 miles S.W. Cape Matapan. MOHAWK was detached to southwards to pass wireless messages during night to give impression that fleet was moving to westwards.

10.....

Mediterranean (Contd.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — C. in C., E.I.'s 1924/29. Intend to sail ship with escort of 3 destroyers from Alexandria p.m. 4/8. Destroyers required back as soon as possible after arrival at Aden, and cannot be spared for diversion to Kismayu. Maximum speed just over 17½ knots. Endurance details. (C. in C., Med., 1309/31).

Enemy Intelligence — S.O.(I) Alexandria 1555/30 reporting salvage vessel TRIPCOVITCH rushed from Sibenik to Taranto 27/7 for salvage ov CAVOUR or CESARE. Following reports received during last 48 hours. (1) From C.O.I.S. Far East, Singapore not graded. CAVOUR was recently bombed. (2) From secret sources graded C.O. High Official Italian Embassy Madrid stated CESARE mistaken for HOOD, bombed and severely damaged by Italian aircraft. Reached Genoa with difficulty whereupon sailors attacked airmen. (3) Belgrade telegram 492, 29/7 graded by us C.O. Yugoslav Consul has reported damage suffered in recent engagement by CAVOUR and CESARE so serious that both ships will be out of commission at least 6 months. 10 hits were scored on former and damage done to engines. 60 men killed and over 100 wounded. Both ships now at Monfalcone. Spirit of sailors mutinous.

Reference above quoted signal TRIPCOVITCH IS Trieste company owning seven salvage vessels.

In view of your report that Italian aircraft have on one occasion unsuccessfully bombed own ships and similar appearance of HOOD and CAVOUR class it is considered there may well be some truth in these reports and that one or possibly even both Italian battleships have been damaged by own aircraft. (D.N.I. 1750/31, to C. in C. Med.)

ILLUSTRIOUS — Your 1939/29. ILLUSTRIOUS will have 21 Swordfish and 16 Fulmars. (D.N.A.D., to C. in C. Med., 1815/31).

Transport of Stores — Information regarding shipments of service stores from U.K. to Malta will be included in agreed telegram, and regarding civilian stores from U.K. by special telegram to you from D. of S.T. It is hoped similar arrangements will be made for stores for Malta from India, South Africa and Australia, When necessary consult D. of S.T. about order of priority. Read foregoing in conjunction with my 2137/31 to C. in C. E.I. (D. of S.T., to M P.S.T.O., Egypt, 2139/31).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Enemy Cruiser (Contd.)

Swordfish striking force sent to make dusk attack failed to locate enemy. Visibility rather poor. Reconnaissance aircraft subject to A/A fire while shadowing (F.O.I.C., Malta, 2301/31).

Fleet Movements

Movement Summary 137. Submarines PARTHIAN, OSWALD, PERSEUS and OSIRIS. Battle Fleet, 3 main units and 8 destroyers leave Alexandria 1900/31 proceeding towards Gavdo until after dark 1/8, returning thence to arrive Alexandria p.m. 2/8. ORION, NEPTUNE, SYDNEY, 3 destroyers from Alexandria pass Kaso Straits after dark 31/7 and Doro Channel dawn 1/8, sweeping thence to Gulf of Athens and back to leave Aegean westward at dusk 1/8, returning after dark to Gulf of Athens, thence to pass Kaso Straits after dark 2/8 to arrive Alexandria 3/8. CAPETOWN leaves Alexandria p.m. 2/8 due Port Said a.m. 3/8. (C. in C., Med., 2015/31). Flying boats' patrol, 1/8, positions. (C. in C., Med., 2123/31).

Bosporus Patrol.

My 1027/5. Turkish Fleet remains Ismid. Three Southampton flying boats, 1 Walrus, remain stationed at Buyukdere Bay, effecting daily reconnaissances over approach to Bosporus. (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1000/31).

Force H. "Hurry"

Force H. less FEARLESS, ARGUS, 13th D.F. less WRESTLER, WISHART, VIDETTE, making 10 destroyers in all, left Gibraltar 0900/31 for Operation "Hurry". (S.O.I., Gib., 1058/31).

My 1950/25 and your 1757/28. "Hurry" will not be carried out during Operation "Hats" or subsequently. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., Med., 1906/31).

Destroyers

Your 1815/28 and C. in C., E.I., 1928/29. Your difficulties are fully appreciated, but considered that in view of great importance of convoys B.N.3 and B.S.3 the Red Sea destroyers must remain on their station. In view of my 1906/31, you will no doubt reconsider destroyer requirements for Operation "Hats". (D.O.D.(F? 1920/31, to C. in C., Med.).

War Diary

31.7.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Enemy Convoy, Failure to attack (Contd.) — I fear this situation will constantly arise as enemy is immediately acquainted with our Fleet movements by his daily air reconnaissances over Alexandria and can thus seize his opportunity to pass fast convoys to Libya. If and when defences of Malta are such as to allow it to be used as a base by our light forces our power to attack these convoys will be greatly improved. (C. in C., Med., 1701/31).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — Re leaving ammunition at Alexandria. (C. in C., Mediterranean, 1307/31).

Force H. — Adty. 1432/28. Objectives of Force H., in order of importance. (F.O., Force H., 0658/31, 0700/31, see Mediterranean Volume).

Enemy Report of British Moves — Rome broadcast report of six cruisers, unknown number of destroyers, leaving Alexandria, course 300°, 10 knots, time of origin 0820. (C. in C., Med., to R.A.D., Med., 0925/31).

Rome reported to all shore stations that 6 cruisers of 7,000 tons, unknown number of destroyers, were off Alexandria, at 0520 G.M.T., course 300° speed 10 knots. (Capt. O.S., NILE to 2nd in Comd., Med., 0928/31). At 1645/ Italian a/c reported Force A., besides two battleships and four destroyers, steering 300° at 20 knots in position 34°10' N., 28°10' E. (Capt. O.S., NILE, 1701/31).

Following has been read. 1 cruiser bearing 000° 5 miles course 000°. My position 170°, 36° N., 15° E. 90. (Medit. a/c, 1845/31).

Enemy Cruiser — Following has been read. Correction 1846. Position, course and speed of enemy cruiser 170, QMTW (36° N., 15° E.), 85, 005°, 18 knots. (Medit. a/c 1900/31).

Enemy course is 045. (Malta W/T, 1930/31). Position, course and speed of ~~xxx~~ enemy, 159, QMTW 36° N., 15° E.), 72,000°, 25 knots. (Medit. a/c 2020/31. Am returning, 2025/31). OSWALD and PARTHIAN informed (C. in C., Med., 2157/31).
Evening reconnaissance located one BANDE NERE class cruiser 85 miles south-east of Malta, steering north.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Dakar Intelligence (Contd.) content to remain at Dakar rather than risk being bombed in approach to U.K. (C. in C., S.A., 1305/31).

CANBERRA Unless any objection, comply with fourth alternative of A.C.N.Bs 0825Z/31, and sail CANBERRA for Fremantle and Sydney at earliest possible moment, reporting expected time of arrival Sydney. (C. in C., S.A., to S.N.O., Simonstown, 1620/31).

Cameroons Governor Nigeria's telegram 862 to S. of S. for Colonies. Agree impossible to give active assistance to Mauclere, that we will do our best to help those who might come to British territory if a coup d'etat took place and failed, and that we could not support French in Cameroons if they were attacked by French troops from elsewhere. Apart from inadvisability of antagonising French Colonies as a whole, there are no troops fit to take part in operations. (G.O.C., West African Forces, 1910/31, to W.O.).

Refugees Adty. 1839/29 being passed to you. On receipt, report by signal as to position in South Africa as regards reception of British women and children evacuees. (C. in C., S.A., to S.N.O., Simonstown, 1428/31).

Mediterranean

Enemy Convoy, Failure to attack OSWALD's 1530/30, re enemy convoy seen passing through Straits of Messina. Report action taken. (1st S.L., to V.A., Malta, 1034/31). Your 1034. No action taken. Report received at 2145 zone minus 2. Only aircraft available Swordfish. Consider enemy would have been beyond range of these aircraft. (V.A., Malta, 1503/31).

Adty. 1034/31 does not appear clearly to appreciate the situation. By 2255 when OSWALD's report was received it was too late for effective action. It was evident that transports were making for Benghazi and that they would be beyond range of Malta SWORDFISH at daylight. I decided therefore that a dawn air search from Malta would be valueless particularly as it was not possible to get surface force to central Mediterranean in time to intercept.

I fear.....

War Diary

31.7.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

Convoys

Lisbon reports 12 ships from Portugal ports will be at Gibraltar for convoy by 3/8. Probably others from Spanish ports, Request when further convoy should be sailed, observing H.G.40 sailed 30/7 and H.G.41 not due to sail until 11/8. (F.O.C.N.A., 1144/31).

Request for Hurricanes

Governor, Gibraltar, message 2239/30, states Italian aircraft attacking Gibraltar are violating Spanish territory. He therefore intends to use emergency landing ground which is now suitable for fighter aircraft and asks for six Hurricanes to be sent. In the interest of safety of the naval force at Gibraltar, suggest this request should be strongly supported by Adty. (F.O.C.N.A., 1248/31).

South Atlantic

Raider Report

Following intercepted from British ship DOMINGO DE LARRINAGA: QQQQ (disguised merchant ship raider), 05°26' S., 18°06' W., at 1130 G.M.T. toady (ends). DOMINGO DE LARRINAGA on passage Bahia Blanca to Freetown on approx. route AD.4 (C. in C., S.A., 1130/31).

British DOMINGO DE LARRINAGA describes ship as flying Swedish flag, black hull, white bridge, etc. (C. in C., S.A., 1130/31, 1138/31).

ALGANTARA.

Further to my 1240/30, details of damage. (C. in C., S.A., 1003/31, to N.A., Rio de Janeiro). No political difficulty anticipated re repairs. (N.A., Rio, 1352/31).
Propose to enter Rio de Janeiro 0900 zone plus 3 tomorrow 1/8. (ALGANTARA, 2350Z/31).

Information from member of DAVISIAN crew taken prisoner 10°/7, aboard raider NARVIK for four days. (S.N.O., Trinidad, 1706/30).

Dakar Intelligence

My 1912/30 (escape of Ellish vessel from Dakar). Information received from Captain Dybek, damage to RICHELIEU, French warships in harbour, German planes arrived ostensibly to take away German internees but these not left as far as known, demobilisation of white and black troops expected to begin 29/7, 80% of population against Vichy Govt., food situation bad, French ships sailing Dakar to Casablanca escorted by a destroyer or submarine, many Norwegian ships

content.....

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME CONFINED

Enemy Intelligence, Contd.

At 1039/31 in 59° 19' N., 5° 40' E. two small M/V's less than 1000 tons, one station ary, the other on course 320° speed 8 knots A/C report. (Denibristle 2205/31)

Ymuiden
Calias
Gravelines

P.R.U. Sortie shows no shipping and no activity. (PIU 2225/31)

Shipping

SS GOTEBORG

Repatriating 125 interned personnel. Safe conduct granted to Swedish Govt., by German Govt. Conditions. (M.A. Stockholm 1825/31)

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Hague — At 0015/31 a large ship lying N. and S. blocking the harbour entrance, and another ship just West of her alongside harbour entrance. (T.H.I. 0430/1)

Vollenhove — At 1225/31, three ships about 1500 tons in harbour (T.H.I. 0430/1)

At 1125/31 in 53° 55' N., 7° 18'E., fifteen ships in convoy heading east. Leading ship about 4000 tons. (T.H.I. 0430/1)

Ameland — At 1140/31, 5 miles North of Ameland, three Trawlers heading S.W. (T.H.I. 0430/1)

Ostend / Nieuport — P.R.U. Sortie shows both clear of shipping. (P.I.U. 0035/1)

Havre — At 1208/31. 2 derelict barges in Inner Harbour Dock; many wagons on railway sidings but no signs of activity. A/C report. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1415/31)

Cape de la Heve — 3 Sand-bagged Gun positions on top of cliff. (A.C.H.Q., Chatham 1415/31)

At 1117/31 in 58° 30' N., 5° 38' E., one M/V Tanker type, course 360° speed 8 knots. Two miles off shore. A/C report. (Donibristle 1425/31)

At 1155/31 in 59° N., 5° 38'E., one Steam Trawler 300 tons six miles from entrance to Fiord, course 045° speed 6 knots. A/C report. (Donibristle 1510/31)

Narvik — Reconnaissance postponed. (C. in C., Rosyth 1610/31 to C. in C., H.F.)

Scheveningen — At 0015/31 two large M/V's anchored off Scheveningen. A/C report (C. in C., Nore 2013/31 to Adty.)

/At 1839/31.....

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Start Point — Aircraft report about 25 black objects, possibly Mines just below surface 10' S of Start Point. Position and report not very reliable. (C. in C., W.A. 0116/31 to WOLVERINE)

Blyth — Mine exploded 116° Blyth East Pier Light 4½ cables. Port closed till sweeping completed. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0858/31 to F.O.I.C. Tyne) Blyth now open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1446/31 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

Milford Haven — Port now open. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1030/31 to Adty.) One Magnetic Mine exploded by LL sweep this morning. Port will be closed from sunset tonight till 1100/1st August. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1912/31 to Adty.)

Tees and Hartlepool — Drifters M detonated Mine at 54° 40' 30" N 1° 7' 48" W. Ports are closed. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1156/31 to Adty.) Ports now open (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1700/31 to Adty)

North Shields — One Red Mine exploded 49° St. Mary's Light 1.1 miles. (P.N.S.O. N. Shields 1256/31 to F.O.I.C. Tyne)

Swansea and Port Talbot — Ports are now open. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1358/31 to Adty.) Red Mine by A/A 168° Mumbles Head 1.05 miles. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1455/31 to Adty.) Swansea and Port Talbot closed (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1645/31 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff) Ports closed (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1827/31 to Adty.)

Harwich — Result of today's minesweeping operations.
(1) Mine exploded in sweep 020° 1 mile from position "X"
(2) One enemy floater destroyed 180° 1.5 miles from position X
(3) One mine cut and destroyed 002° 4 miles from position X.
(4) Two mines exploded in sweep 013° 5-3/4 miles from position Y.
(5) One mine cut and destroyed in position 180° 1.5 miles. MV mines exploded in sweep position uncertain.
One mine exploded in sweep 258° 2.2 miles from Aldeburgh. Above include new small type and German "Y" type. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2011/31 to Adty.)

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air-British Air Activity

Operations 49 and 50 to be carried out to night. Aircraft of Bomber Command will attack Waalhavn Aerodrome at Rotterdam between darkness and 0100/1 (H.Q.C.C. 1020/31)

Air searches tomorrow Thursday. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1914/31)

Air Sortie from Hatston — Your 2145/31 Concur. (A.C.C.S. 2215/31 to Hatston)

Nordeney — AM/31st 15 miles N. of Nordeney, near misses were obtained on leading ship of a convoy of 15 M/Vs heading East. (T.H.I. 0430/1)

AM/31st 3 Flak ships attacked at 53° N., 7° E., and near misses obtained; and near miss observed of a ship at 52° 30' N., 5° 40' E., (T.H.I. 0430/1)

At 1600/31 in 50° 28 N., 1° 13'E., six E-Boats attacked and seven near misses claimed. (A.C.H.Q. 1850/31)

Channel Mobile Balloon Barrage — My 2218/30 and 1939/27. Approval has been given to fit out two additional French Tugs, INDEFATIGABLE and MAMOTH, now at Plymouth as Reserve Craft for this Barrage. Request fittijg out at Plymouth be arranged and you report expected date of completion. (D. of L.D. 1334/31 to C. in C., W.A.)

Zuider Zee — Aircraft attacked shipping at 1230 and 1235/31. Results not observed. (D.S. 331)

Air Raid Bristol Channel — Avonmouth 3 bombs in sea. Barry 8 bombs in sea, 4 in dock area, slight damage to railway (F.O.i/c Cardiff 1900/31)

War Diary

31.7.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

Hague

At 0920/31 at 296° The Hague 20 miles, one E-Boat heading West (T.H.I. 0430/1)

Western Channel

Request early consideration to the transfer of one Flotilla of M.T.B's or fast Motor Boats to this Command for attacking E-Boats operating by night in Western Channel. (C. in C., W.A. 1339/31 to Adty.)

At 1207/31 in 49° 48' N., 0° 10' E four ships and 3 small vessels probably E-Boats (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1430/31)

To intercept E-Boats minelaying in swept channel 2 M A/S Bs to proceed as requisite to arrive Aldeburgh light float by 2300/31. They are to secure to float and be prepared to slip instantly if enemy vessels sighted. They return to base at daylight. (C. in C., Nore 1523/31 to S.O. 2 MA/S B Flotilla, Yarmouth)

At 1600/31 in 50° 2' N., 1° 13' E, six E-Boats were attacked by aircraft. Seven near misses claimed. (A.C.H.Q. 1850/31)

Dunkirk

P.R.U. Sortie 31/7 shows probably 2 E-Boats at Monitors Quay. (P.I.U. 2225/31)

Ambleteuse

P.R.U. Sortie shows one E-Boat off Ambleteuse, northward bound, at 1620/31. (P.I.U. 2225/31)

27-4-40

to

31-4-40

Supplementary
War Diary.

27.4.40
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Evacuation of Aandalnes:

Intend planning to evacuate from Aandalsnes between 1/5 and 10/5. Arrange transport for 6500. (Brig. Hogg 1100/27).

Situation deteriorates. Port incapable of necessary scale of supply. Not informing Norwegian authorities (Aandalsnes 1620/27).

N.L.O. 5th Caps 1403/27 (see ordinary Diary) was originated by Adty. to to counteract damage caused by his 0050/27 (see ordinary Diary) being made by W/T in a compromised cypher, and 1403/27 is to be disregarded (Admlty. 2045/27 to C. in. C. H.F.).

Arrangements for transports ULSTER MONARCH, ULSTER PRINCE to sail empty (D.O.D.(H) 2128/27 to F.O.C.O.S.) EL DJEZAIR, EL KANTARA, EL MANSOUR (D. of P. 2132/27 to C. in. C. H.F.) ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, BEN-MY-CHREE (D.O.D.(H) 0042/28) LANCASTRIA, BATORY, R. DEL PACIFICO, SOBIESKI, (D. of P. 0258/28).

Mining

RUBIS — When ready French minelaying submarine RUBIS to leave Harwich and to carry out P.D.G. as follows. Mines to be laid in groups of 5 or 6 close vicinity 058° 1.7' N. 007° 56.5' E. Not to be laid south of 58° 01° N.E. of 008° E.N.E. of 007° 50' E. (V.A.(S) 1252/27).

Shipping.

Faroes Ships — Flag adopted for Faroese-owned merchant and fishing vessels. Description. (Hd. of M. 1259/27).

Contraband Control. — Notice to Mariners No. 192/40 is now being enforced. Neutral ships affected are to be directed to call at Falmouth or Weymouth for contraband control and warned that failure to comply will result in diversion from the Downs back to Falmouth or Weymouth. (D.E.W.D. 1257/27).

Suspicious objects to be reported. — Masters of merchant ships should be instructed to report at once by W/T estimated position of any parachute mine or other suspicious object seen to drop from enemy aircraft. (D.T.D. 1657/27).

Norwegian merchant ships. — lying in Norwegian ports (N.O.I.C. Aandalsnes 1240/26) should be sailed for U.K. as soon as possible. To sail at dusk to Kirkwall, (D.T.D. 0249/28).

Supplementary
War Diary.

27.4.40
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping. (Contd)

Convoy F.S.57. — Cancelled owing to escort being required for other duties (C.in.C. Rosyth 2232/27)

Norwegian Shipping. — By Royal Degree 20/4/40 all ships of over 500 tons placed at disposal of Norwegian Government. Shipping and Trade Division in London under W. Losenteer. (D.T.D.1922/27).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked.

SCOTTISH AMERICAN.

The area off Cape Wrath where the ranker SCOTTISH AMERICAN was damaged on 27/4 has been swept for mines without success, and it must therefore be presumed that the vessel was torpedoed. (A.S.W.D.244).

BREDA. — Attack on submarine. M.08238/40.
53° 57' 30" N.
00° 13' E.

Supplementary
War Diary

28.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Evacuation of Aandalsnes.

It has been decided to re-embark the forces landed in Namsos and Aandalsnes areas as soon as possible. Total numbers ashore Aandalsnes area 5500 including Naval, Namsos area 6200.

Hope to effect main embarkation simultaneously in both areas on night 1/2, and remainder night 2/3. Circumstances may necessitate embarkation in Aandalsnes area 24 hours earlier.

Arrangements. Ships available.

Battleship or 8 inch cruiser to bombard forts at Trondheim during evacuation (V.C.N.S. 0339/28).

18 C.S. to refuel if insufficient fuel to remain at sea until completion of operation 4/5 (C. in C., H.F. 0922/28) ARK ROYAL ditto (C. in C., H.F., 0934/28).

Personnel to be withdrawn regardless of loss of equipment (V.C.N.S. 1122/28).

SOUTHAMPTON, AURORA required (C. in C., H.F. 1204/28).

F.O.C. 18 C.S. to be in charge of evacuation. Force: available ships of 18th C.S., 2nd C.S., ULSTER PRINCE, ULSTER MONARCH, necessary destroyers (C. in C., H.F. 1243/28).

Arrangements. F.O.C. 2 C.S. 1434/28, Primrose 1220/28, N.O.I.C. Aandalsnes 1650/28.

Cruiser to embark King of Norway even against his wishes to prevent him falling into German hands. To be got on board by subterfuge. (V.C.N.S. 1521/28, 1552/28).

Outline plan (1st S.L. 1722/28).

Sailing of ships (C.S. 18 1725/28).

Raid in Skagerrak proposed for psychological reasons as soon as possible after evacuation (1st S.L. 1720/18).

Arrangements D. of P. 1816/28, 1721/28, C.S.1 2129/18, C. in C., H.F., 2203/28, 2301/28.

Arrangements for air cooperation (D.N.A.D. 1724/28).

Supplementary War Diary

28.4.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Aandalsnes & Molde

Hospital Ship — Your 69427 (M.08) 27/4 - Situation does not warrant. (Sickle T. W.O. 1810/28.

Operations - Allied Submarines.

TETRARCH — Reports 23/4, 1820, in position 58:15 N., 10:33 E., in position 58° attack southbound large transport, class unknown, believed SCHARNHORST, of about 15,??? tons, target screened by three destroyers. Two torpedoes fired, believed tracks were sighted from the air. TETRARCH attacked by depth charges continuously from 1843/23 until about 0800/24. No damage sustained. TETRARCH surfaced at 2130/24 after a dive of 43 hours' duration. Air very foul. No apparent harm to health of crew, but severe reaction on surfacing. Further details of patrol. (S.2, 1637/28).

Miscellaneous

CENTURION as A/A Ship — Your 1126/16 (CENTURION fitting as A/A ship). Proposal has been very fully examined and it is regretted found to be impracticable. Reasons given. (D. of L.D., 1554/28, to C. in C., H.F.).

Shipping

SCOTTISH AMERICAN — R.A.(D) 0206/28 reports herself 058:41 N., 004:40 W. (F.O.C.O.S., 0533/28).

Supplementary War Diary

29.4. 1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

POLICY

Norway

I propose to answer your 0920/29 myself. It is impossible for 3 or 4,000 men without artillery or air superiority to withstand advance of 70,000 or 80,000 thoroughly equipped Germans by the two railways from Oslo which have not been destroyed. Therefore everything south of Trondheim must be extricated. On other hand, we intend to fight our way back from Namsos towards Mosjoen in a small way but obstinately, and it is likely enemy will not press too strongly. All time gained by slow concession of ground is of use to Cork, who hopes to master Narvik before mid-May. You are aware that we hope to establish ourselves there almost as strongly as at Scapa, and to make Narvik a base from which at least 30,000 men can be brought to bear on Gallivare orefield. Questions of Swedish neutrality need not be settled yet or may settle themselves. Our intention is:-
(a) To dispute the Norwegian coast from Namsos northwards with amphibian forces but great earnestness;
(b) To have Narvik at all costs. You may take this for the lay-out for the summer. The Danger of Italy joining the war, and the crippling of the German Fleet in recent operations, make it possible to concentrate certain forces in the Mediterranean. We are anxious to place as strong a fleet as possible at Alexandria because the western basin can be reinforced at any time. We have not got to Alexandria yet, but we expect it will be all right.

To sum up, objects are:-

1. To pull out the Aandalsnes party as well as possible.

2. To resist further advance north of Namsos in a minor but resolute way.

3. To go all out for victory at Narvik and beyond.

Feel sure you must be very proud of the way your A/A craft and above all Fleet Air Arm are comporting themselves.

(1st Lord, Personal, to C. in C., H.F., 1939/29)

Supplementary War Diary

29.4.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Aandalsnes-Evacuation

Code Names

Aandalsnes first night TUNNEL
Molde first night BRICK 1
Molde second night BRICK 2
Namsos first night KLAXON 1
Namsos second night KLAXON 2
VALIANT'S Bombardment ZEAL
(D.O.D (H) 1154/29 to C. in C., H.F)

Withdrawal from Alta successfully carried out, covered by effective demolitions. Now hold pass 3 miles South of and covering Dombas; Intend to hold until night April 30/May 1 to cover evacuation of Norwegian troops. C. in C., has proved very gallant ally. (Norway H.Q. 1440/29)

Your 1722/28 VALIANT sailing p.m./29 with GLORIOUS to join R.A.A and provide R D/F and H.A. fire for force as CURLEW now out of action. VALIANT can if necessary be detached to bombard forts at Trondheim at daylight 2/5. No liners available here nor is destriyer screen available; every destroyer fit to fight is being used. GLORIOUS, VALIANT delayed by non arrival of aircraft from Donibristle. (C. in C., H.F. 1428/29)

A/S Trawlers

For local escort (A.C.O.C. 1234/29) can be provided from Namsos on completion of Brick2. (C. in C., H.F. 2235/29 to Adty.)

Air

Enemy Air Activity

BEGONIA

Estonian, 1591 tons. Left Blyth on April 2 for Copenhagen. Arrived at Flaam in Aunlardsfiord, where she was bombed and her master killed. The Norwegians sank the vessel, before retreating, on April 29. (D.S.,22/5/40)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Suez Cairo Pipeline

Informed by Ambassador, Cairo, proposed Suez-Cairo pipeline likely to be dropped due to attitude of Egyptian Govt. and lack of support by War Office. Consider project should be supported by Adty. Reasons. C. in C., Med., 0033/29)

Supplementary War Diary

29/4/1940
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN & MINING

Ships Attacked

FRANCONIA

Master reports probable attack by U-Boat 59o 48'N 5° 58'W at 0154/26 Two heavy under water explosions. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1302/29

Submarines attacked

1125

By aircraft 20 m N.W. of North Rona 1 direct hit reported (986)

1204

By Aircraft of No 269 Squadron 90 m W. of Muckle Flugga No hits reported. (987)

1500

Report by Mohawk of attack by AMAZON to M N.E. Muckle Flugga (988)

U-Boat Incidents Report VO 236, Anti Submarine Warfare Section 30/4/40)

OPERATIONS VOLUME

&

~~MEDITERRANEAN VOLUME~~ May '41

for CNO

Ships damaged & sunk (Continued)

Copy

Operations Blume

May 1941

June 1941

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

5.5.41.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

M/S Trawlers — Your 1252/2 Zanzibar was named as it is the better fleet anchorage in the area. Dispositions to meet current requirements will be at your discretion. Trawlers to meet both requirements are not yet in sight. (D.M.S. 1949B/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

6.5.41.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Gibraltar Evacuations. — Your 0220/4/8/40, request information whether policy regarding Gibraltar still holds good. As stated in my predecessor's 1718/21/7 a large proportion of base staff will be unable to function. Such protected accommodation as is available is suitable for temporary accupation only. Early guidance on following points would greatly facilitate preparations of plans.
(A) What Naval Personnel is to remain?
(B) Have I full discretion as to evacuating remainder?
(C) Can it be assumed MAIDSTONE will be available to evacuate Naval Personnel?
(D) Will Admty. divert shipping for evacuation of civil population about 4000 in number?
(F.O.C.N.A., 1932/6 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

8.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

B.P. 4. S.S.T.O. Bombay 0930/3.
B.P. 4 consisting of 3 personnel ships for Basra will leave Bombay 23/5. ANTENOR is to escort to 060° E. and then return to Bombay.

B.P. 5. V.P. 5 consisting of 1 personnel ship from Bombay and 6 personnel ships from Karachi, all for Basra, will leave Bombay 31/5 Karachi 2/6 respectively. ANTENOR is to escort Bombay portion to R.V. in vicinity of Karachi where Karachi portion will join Convoy as arranged by Cndre. R.I.N., thence to 060° E and then return to Bombay.
(C. in C. E.I., 11302/8 to Cdre. R.I.N.)

9.5.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Immobilisation of Northern East Coast Ports. Without the use of blockships which have been removed from the Mouth of the Tyne, and are ordered to be removed from Sunderland, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough, it is impossible to make any adequate preparations for denying to a successful enemy the many miles of excellent quayage facilities which these ports present. Considerable expense has been incurred in preparing these blockships.
Alternative of selecting and retaining ships on the immobilisation order being given is not considered satisfactory.
Reasons. Submit above mentioned three blockships be retained and if not practicable to provide one big enough for Tyne, that preparations be made to lay a contact or magnetic minefield in the harbour entrance with a limited period of activity which should be laid in completion of movements in harbour entrance following an order to immobilise.
(Admiral Peters 2019/9 to Admty.)

War Diary

7.5.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Norway

Mosjoen Situation

Your 1515/7 Information from Rupert Force now confirms that French detachment is still in Mosjoen and in communication with British detachment at Mo. Nearest enemy stated to be 100 miles away. Situation will be watched and instructions sent to VETERAN if necessary. (D.of P., to C. in C., H.F., 2253/7)

Troop Convoy H.K. 1.

Admty. 1804/4, my 2125/3. Convoy H.K. One ordered to wait to westward. 2 ships are discharging and 2 waiting at Harstad, 2 waiting at Tromso without protection, 3 French dischraging and 3 waiting at Skaanland under protection of H.M.S. STORK. Harstad has only two wharves with total avarage rate of discharge 2 ships in 5 days. In addition there are 2 oilers and 3 liners with 4 battalions of Poles. (F.O. Narvik, 1923/7)

A/S Patrols

Ref. A.L.M/A/S.W. 814/40 of 20.4.40. To enable me to take up duties on Norwegian Coast without delay of so ordered, request I may be kept informed from time to time of any fresh developements affecting A/S Patrols, Norway. Among other points, up to date information is desired regarding (a) requisitioning powere of Norwegian Government in relation to small craft, and whether Norwegian Naval Officers who have authority to take action on behalf of the Norwegian Government in this respect, will be available for attachment to S.A/S S.P. when he arrives on the Norwegian Coast, (b) ditto re buildings required as fitting out workshops, (c) billetting of personnel ashore, and (d) any change in rate of exchange of Kroner. Latest information held regarding above was obtained on 26th April, 1940. (S.A/S.P., 0927/7, in PHILANTE)

WAR DIARY. 11th May, 1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous. (Contd.)

Evacuees.	MALCOLM to intercept and bring to Downs 3 or more Dutch trawlers which leave Scheveningen 1800/12 with British and French evacuees. (V.A.Dover 1832/11) Cancel. Trawlers have not sailed (V.A.Dover 6057/12)
MONARK	(Sunk by SEVERN 4/5) A.M.A. Stockholm to report if shewn under charter or not (V.A.S.1114/11).
Evacuees.	Intercept L.N.E.R. steamer has probably been sent Ymuiden this evening to embark refugees. Carry out my 1445∅ and paragraph one of my 1609. (C.in C.Nore 1950/11 May to C S 2, VIVIEN. Capt.(D)1, WHITLEY).
Landing grounds in Orkneys and Shetlands.	V A C C S. No.555/OS 327 dated 7th May. I strongly support his proposals in paragraph 7 and request work be pressed on with. My views on the urgency of the construction of additional landing grounds in the Orkney and Shetlands area have been repeatedly expressed since the war began. (C.in C. H.F.1751/11).
Evacuees.	My 1450 and 1455 11th May. Dutch trawler refused to sail. Hague evacuees and those from Amsterdam sail tonight Saturday in S.S. DOTTEREL for Downs from Ymuiden. (N.A.Hague 1930/11).

Weather.

	Wind.	Visibility.	Outlook.
North Sea.	Between N.W. and N.E. Light to moderate.	Very good.	Similar.
Channel.	Northerly, light.	Poor to moderate coastal haze.	Similar, visibility improving.
Western Approaches.	Northerly, light.	Moderate to good, coastal haze.	Similar.
Horn's Reef.	W., moderate.	Good.	Similar.
Dutch Coast.	Light, variable.	Moderate.	Similar.
W.Coast Norway.	In south, S.W. to W., fresh	Good.	Similar.
	In north, easterly, fresh.	Moderate,poor in showers.	Uncertain.

War Diary

7.5.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Dutch Coast

Sweep

My 1827/3, sweep by French warships of Belgian and Dutch coasts. The same operation will be carried out by these ships and aircraft leaving Dunkirk 1430 today 7/5 and returning p.m. tomorrow, 8/5 (V.A. Dover, 1155/7)

Keep steam at 12 hours' notice. (D.C. 2211/7 to FLORENTINO and 4 other ships)

Air- Enemy Air Activity

Precautions, Depth Charges

CARLISLE's 1120/6. If you concur, request you will issue instructions that when operating in waters where heavy air attack may be expected, non-asdic fitted ships should either land their depth charges or stow them below the upper deck. (D. A/S W., to C. in C., H.F. 2023/7)

Mining

Gear for Destroyers

Minelaying gear to be sent to Immingham for ICARUS, IMPULSIVE, IVANHOE, INTREPID (D. of D., Bath, 1912/7)

The position where enemy minelayers were reported has been searched for contact mines without result. Two French destroyers were in the position given at 0500/7 and may have given rise to the report of minelayers. (I.C. 0445/40)

WAR DIARY. 11th May, 1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Enemy mining on Dutch and Belgian coasts.	The situation is obscure, but reports of enemy mining have been received in following positions:- Off Calais and Dunkirk (B2). Flushing Roads near Ostend and Zeebrugge (B2) 5 miles off Ostend on a bearing between 015° and 020° (Ao). Ymuiden harbour and seaward end of waterway to Rotterdam, about 1 mile from sea. Port of Ymuiden is still open (B2). N.E.of Walcheren (B2). 5 miles from Flushing. Flushing Roads and Scheldt above flushing (B2). A report from a neutral source states that the Germans have laid magnetic mines in all Dutch harbours (B2). A Dutch pilot vessel has been mined near Rotterdam, at E end of Rozenburg Island. 240° Ymuiden South Pier Light, 7 miles. A2. In the New Waterway as far up as Rotterdam. A1. Possibly between Flushing and Wielingen outer Buoy. In Roombot. B3. (N.O.i/c. Dover 0058/11, I.C.0444/40, 0445/40 D.D.I.C.1420/11.)
S.E.Coast.	Reports of enemy a/c mining off S.E.Coast from Lowestoft to Beachy Head (B2) (I.C.0447/40).
RUBIS.	Your 1041/11 (proposed laying by RUBIS) Concur (V.C.N.S.1754/11 to V.A.(S)).
Sweeping reports.	1 mine swept 52° 56'N 1°37¾' E (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1900/11). Magnetic mine exploded by LL sweep 28° 6' N 4° 2' 36"W. (N.O.I.C.Swansea 1438/11.)
Coast of Low Countries.	Re Trawlers sweeping, A A protection etc. (D.M.S.1421/11.)
E.Coast Mine Barrier. EXPRESS ESK INTREPID Line BS3.	Will be laying mines in 000° direction for 4.5 miles from 52° 36'N 2°56'E 1p.m./12. (R.A.(S)1706/11, D.D.O.D(M)1531/11, 1326/11).
Operation CBX.	Report of (PRINCESS VICTORIA 1115/11). (Carried out 2107/10).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Polish and Norwegian Ships

Admty. 0006/29. It appears equally important to avoid losses of Norwegian or Polish ships Request instruction whether these ships should either (a) be issued with envelope QQ and key signal for opening or (b) be given verbal advice as to action in event of Hostilities. (C. in C., Med., 1747/7)

East Indies

Danish Ship IVAR

Governor instructed to hand her over: unsuitable for inner harbour berthing or defence boom maintenance. Could not be fitted with Mark I sweep but could be fitted and supplied with Mark 5 sweep from Aden. Draft 13 ft 6' all officers and most of crew loyal. Instructions requested as to employment of ship and terms of engagement of crew. Docking 2 months overdue, no facilities at Aden. Danish tug PROTECTOR standing by. Officers and men in arrears for wages. Have authorised Admiralty agent to advance £200 for small advances of pay. Master wishes to know position regarding payment of arrears. (N.O.I.C. Aden to C. in C., E.I. 0716/7)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Interception of French Ships.

Reference interception of French ship by TRUANT a continuance of these activities will most certainly weld close co-operation between French and enemy to locate and report position of Force H in Western Mediterranean.
Success of operations in this area depends to a large extent on evasion. With short nights and period of high visibility this is becoming increasingly difficult.
Unless the importance of these very occasional interceptions overrides all other considerations I consider that they should be abandoned.
(S.O. Force H., 1034/13 to Admty.)

China

LAMOTTE-PICQUET, repair.

My 0831Z/8 para 4. I recommend we should not provide repair materials for LAMOTTE PICQUET though desirable to appear to view the request sympathetically. In event of Japanese aggression in Indo-China, Japanese would probably make a big effort to seize the ship, if in an efficient condition. List of materials is heavy, including 116 tons of steel. (etc.)
At future date it might be desirable to offer materials in return for some concession by French, but for the present we had better keep this up our sleeves.
(C. in C. China, 0957Z/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

14.5.41.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Gibraltar Evacuation policy.

Your 1932/6. Policy contained in my 0220/4/8/40 holds good in that Gibraltar is to be held for the use of the fleet as long as possible and subsequently as a fortress.
Personnel for berthing and fuelling to be retained as long as harbour can be used.
Subsequently only those engaged in:-
(i) Active defence of the fortress.
(ii) Blocking and sabotage of harbour facilities if not already completed.
(iii) Communications are to be retained.
(B) Yes (C) Yes
(D) Shipping for evacuation of 1800 is being diverted as in my 1337/7. As remaining 2200 are dockyard employees it is not desired to evacuate these until circumstances render is essential when such shipping as is required will, if available, be diverted.
(Hd. of M. Appd. by A.C.N.S. (F). 1300B/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

15.5.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

A/S Protection of shipping in Freetown Area.

Your 1236/10. Reinforcements appreciated. Problems at Freetown are, (A) definite convoy commitments about every nine or ten days to northwards and (B) the area in which independent shipping is liable to attack extending over whole Approaches to Freetown. These are two separate problems and for that reason thought situation differs to some extent from N.W. Approaches.

/Following....

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic.

A/S Protection of shipping in Freetown Area. -Contd.

Following attacks on convoy S.L. 67 and 68 air escort has been provided for convoys confirmed by Admiralty 0009/7, in which maximum air escort was requested. With limited A/S surface escort and very slow convoys, considered important that submarines should not locate convoy in early stage of voyage and if do locate should be kept down while avoiding action taken and cannot afford to wait until convoy is known to have been located. On other hand if all A/S vessels are concentrated on convoy remainder of area is left free while concentrated attack may develop in that area.
A/S forces for each convoy are away from Freetown for 15 days, Admiralty's 0113/28/3 and my 2135N/22/4 refer. Consider convoy air escort required or R/C in area through which will pass on each occasion of leaving and some compromise desirable in employment of A/S vessels when increase of forces allows. Agree principle of air patrols to keep U-Boats out and dispersion. (C. in C. S.A. 1917N/15 to Admty.)

East Indies

Shatt el Arab Mine watching organisation.

Situation in Basra Province is such that undefended channel from Margiso to open sea is perfect target for minelaying aircraft. We are in effect in control of Margiso to Ashar (?only) and dockyard at Fao. Basra City and the remainder of the channel on the Iraq side of the river id occupied by people rendered hostile by the propaganda or afraid to assist owing to intimidation and the uncertainty of the British intention to remain here.
2. Minewatching organisation must therefore be carried on from boats.
Following personnel increase is required.
6. It is understood total number employed on Suez Canal Organisation is approximately 5000. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1108Z/15)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

16.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Patrol.

The recent successful interception of 3 enemy tankers by O.B.V's in lat 44° -45° N indicate the necessity of maintaining patrol in this area.
2. From 17/5 it is noted that the Western Patrol will be entirely vacant for a period at present unknown.
3. With the very limited number of ships at your disposal it is appreciated that such a hiatus is occasionally unavoidable.
4. It is however desired to re-establish patrol in the Northern zone as soon as possible.
5. Request you will signal your proposals.
(A.C.N.S. F. 1246B/16 to F.O.C.N.P.)

18.5.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

A. Situation at present is:-
(1) That all German main units and 8" cruisers except battlecruisers are located in German waters.
(2) Battlecruisers are believed to be damaged and temporarily out of action.
(3) There are a number of merchant ship raiders operating against our trade in distant waters.
(4) American Forces are patrolling the North Atlantic west of 30 W. and it is desirable to station a cruiser in the vicinity of their patrols.
(f) The following convoys need cruiser escorts:-

W.S. 8 B, 22nd May
W.S. 8 X, 27th May
W.S. 9 A, 31st May
W.S. 9 B, 20th June
W.S. 10, 20th July.

B. To meet the above commitments it is necessary to withdraw some of the cruisers now under your command.

/C.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy-Contd.

C. The following dispositions are desired:-
LONDON to leave U.K. 3/6 and then operate in American Area 1.
EXETER to escort W.S. 8 B to Aden and then join East Indies.
NEPTUNE to escort W.S. 8 X either to Gibraltar or Aden.

D. To meet the remaining requirements your views are requested as to which ships, either 8" or large 6", you would wish to detail:-
American Area No.3 - Flagship required.
W.S. 9 A - Escort to Cape and then operate in South Atlantic.
W.S. 9 B - Escort to Cape and then to South America Division to relieve NEWCASTLE who returns U.K. for boiler repairs.
W.S. 10 - Escort to Cape.

E. C. in C. A & W.I. is using a 6" cruiser and a mobile oiler to operate in American Area No.2.

F. Following cruisers expected to become available ex Dockyard DEVONSHIRE 19/5, BERWICK 15/6 DORSETSHIRE 1/7, KENT end of August, PENELOPE early July.
(1st S.L. 0059B/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

Mining.

1. There is further evidence that U-Boats are using the passage between Faeroes and Shetlands.

2. It is proposed therefore that R.A. (M) lays a line to double the southern end of S.N. four which is the most likely field to be crossed, as soon as possible.

3. Understand that two minelayers would be ready to sail on 21/5, but that only two of 17th Division will be available.

4. If no escorts can be supplied from H.F. resources, it is suggested that one minelayer only might be sent to double the portion of the minefield outside the 200 fathom line.

5. Request your early remarks.
(D.O.D. H. 1806B/18 to C. in C. H.F., R.A.M)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Faeroes
N. Rona
Minefield.

A.M. 1806/18. Para one. Recommend that Faeroes North Rona minefield should be reinforced by deep mines.
(C. in C. H.F. 1250B/19)

20.5.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operations
S.N. 64 A
S.N. 64 B

Propose to carry out operation S.N. 64 as follows:- All times are Midsummer times.
To lay surface minefield S.N. 64 A from S.E. to N.W. and surface minefield S.N. 64 B from S.E. to N.W. (D1) AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, BRIGHTON, ST. MARY'S, SCOTT, (D2) 1 cruiser 1 destroyer.
S.N. 64 A from 300 fathoms line in 060° 22' 30" N., 006° 17' 30" W. in 329° directions for about 18 miles my 1237/20.
S.N. 64 B from 300 fathoms line in approx. 060° 24' 30" N., 005° 51' 30" W., in 329° direction for about 8½ miles.
S.N. 64 A at 0800/23. S.N. 64 B at about 1300/23. Return Port Z.A. 0630/24.
(R.A.M.L. 1237B/20)

Faeroes
N. Rona
Minefield.

Your 1250/19.
1. It is desired in this instance to lay a shallow minefield.
2. Suggest that R.A. (M) and D.O.D. (M) should visit at a convenient date to discuss reinforcement by deep mines and other future operations of first Minelaying Squadron. (A.C.N.S. H. 2152/B/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.
Operations.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Proposed Operations.

Propose carry out following operations after S.N. 64 in order
(i) S.N. 67 B with 2 ships between 063° 20' N., 009° 24' W. and 063° 00' N., 008° 44' W., or slightly further to south eastwards if depth of water does not permit laying so far to north west.
(ii) S.N. 67A with 3 ships between 062° 57' N., 008° 40' ? W., and 062° 28' N., 007° 50' W.
(iii) S.N. 70 between 064° 32' 30" N., 012° 56' W., and 064° 37' N., 012° 48' W and 065° 08' N., 012° 47' W.
(iv) S.N. 66 between 062° 21' N., 006° 53' W., and 062° 48' N., 007° 38' W.
S.N. 66 and/or S.N. 67 A could be laid shorter and thicker if it is desired to give less Overlap between them. Request your early remarks. (R.A.M.L. 1014B/21)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

A/S Convoy Escorts.

Your 0016B/20. 7 Corvettes available now 15 more within one month. Total of 48 within 6 months. 7 are being sailed for St. John N.F. 23/5 being augmented by a group of 5 in a fortnight, the force being further strengthened as ships become available. We should be glad to undertake task of A/S convoy escort in Newfoundland focal area which would involve new utilization of all R.C.N. destroyers. With such a force we should feel confident of being able to carry out A/S convoy escort from Newfoundland to R.V. with Iceland escort basing this force on St. Johns N.F. Approximate operating strength by mid June would be 8 destroyers and 20 corvettes. Command of this force would be given to an R.C.N. Officer with experience of operations in Western Approaches, probably Cdr. Mainguy with rank of captain. Suitable staff would be provided. It is hoped that Admiralty will assume direction of this force when necessary to co-ordinate its operations with those of Iceland escort.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 2108Z/21 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Gibraltar D/F and Evacuation

My 1932/6/5 and your 1300/14. Middle Hill D/F Station is very exposed and would probably be knocked out very early in case of seige.
Propose to make Gib 'Y' unit and necessary D/F apparatus into a mobile unit so as to be ready for evacuation. Destination as directed by Admiralty.
Request approval and guidance as to whether party should be included in initial evacuation observing this will entail Middle Hill D/F ceasing to function.
Naval W/T ratings of D/F Station would only be required to accompany party if W.R.N.S. have not arrived. (F.O.C.N.A. 2128A/28 to Admty.)

29.5.1941
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U.S. 11.

Necessary to provide for possibility of large ships of U.S. 11 not being able to proceed to Suez.
U.S. 11 comprising 16000 troops is at present scheduled to arrive Trincomalee about 5/7. Request report as to whether shipping could be made available for onward conveyance to M.E.
(D.of S.T. 1354B/29 to P.S.T.O's, Egypt and India)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

30.5.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Abadan, Evacuation plans.

Pass following by safe hands to Inspector Admiralty fuel Abadan. Your 1055/23 to C. in C. E.I. only.
In the event of widespread disturbances resulting in enforced cessation of your duties you should offer services of yourself and your staff to assist the A.I.O.C. in defence of Abadan.
In event of general evacuation of Abadan being ordered and services of yourself and your staff being no longer required in defence of the place, you should leave with remainder.
You are to make arrangements now to ensure that secret and confidential documents can be destroyed at immediate notice.
Such documents must be destroyed when you leave; earlier if it is necessary.
(C. in C. E.I., 2058Z/30 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf.)

31.5.41.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Search for Supply Ship and for PRINZ EUGEN.

Your 0001Z/30. SUFFOLK is not to return to the area referred to in my 1947B/29. R.A.C. 2nd C.S. will carry out this operation.
Suspected that PRINZ EUGEN may be about to commence attacks on shipping to S.E. of Newfoundland Banks. If PRINZ EUGEN is located anticipate she will move to S.E. at high speed. Our forces in the area are:-
TRUANT on patrol between 44° N., 41° W. 41° N., 44° W.

/REPULSE....

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Search for Supply Ship and for PRINZ EUGEN. -Contd.

REPULSE escorting H.X. 129, estimated to be in 42° 32' N., 51° 48' W., at 1300Z/31 routed through 43° N., 39' W.

REVENGE at present escorting H.X. 128 will be returning to Halifax and may be met about 2/6.

Your object is to locate and attack PRINZ EUGEN.

When fuelled, SUFFOLK is to proceed to operate in an area bounded by 38° N., 46° N., 40° 50° W.
(V.C.N.S., 1328B/31 to SUFFOLK)

War Diaries, R. of P, Summaries &C. received for May.

C.-in-C. Home Fleet.

War Diary 16-31 May 1940 (T.S.D.4586/40).
Narvik - shortage of destroyers 16/5.
Danger of attempted invasion of Shetlands 16/5, 17/5, 19/5, 23/5.
Operation Bottle (a/c minelaying) 16/5, 17/5.
Narvik - shortage of A.A. ammunition 17/5.
Congestion at Haratad; Anglo-French subsidiary base to be formed at Tronso 17/5, 19/5.
Magnetic mines being laid in harbours; some sweeps to be converted for use in restricted waters 19/5.
More attention to be paid to fitting out and storing of transports for use in Northern waters 21/5.
Freetown Convoy Escort Force to be reinforced about mid-June by 4 A.M.C.'s from Northern Patrol 21/5.
A/c Squadrons disembarked from Carriers to be used in co-operation with Coastal Command during present emergency 22/5.
11th A/S Group to proceed to Harwich 22/5.
A.A. ship, possible vital used for presence in Channel in near future 22/5.
A.A. defences of Shetlands23/5.
Norwegian warships captured by Germans being operated by Germans 23/5.
Invasion, risk of Precautionary mensures to be taken 24/5, 25/5, 26/5.
Force of destroyers to be collected at Rosyth, ready to operate on East Coast if required 24/5.
Destroyers - highest priority to be given to repairs 25/5.
Demolition charges - immediate reserves exhausted - improvised charges to be used - ships to land all except minimum outfit 25/5.
Approach channels - reduction in width owing to recent attemps to magnetic mines approaches 26/5.
Stavanger, attack oancelled owing to weather 26/5.
S/m's - in view of present serious situation all s/m's to be available in centre or southern part of North Sea. Propose to release s/m's for patrol by discontinuing minelaying by s/m's on coast of Norway 27/5, 28/5.
Operation Alphabet 27/5, 28/5, 31/5.
Cruisers, employment of in southern part of North Sea 28/5.
Minesweeping on East Coast - plan Flood 29/5.
Destroyers, - 5th D.F. formed 30/5.
Destroyer patrols 31/5.

R.A.(D) Home Fleet

War Diary 1-15 May 1940 (T.S.D.4612/40)
First evacuation of Aandalsnes and Molde - ships engaged 1/5.

WAR DIARIES, R. of P., Summaries, etc., for May 1940

N.O.I.C., Aberdeen. War Diary 15/5 - 30/5. T.S.D., 4162/40. Institution of Post War Signal Station, etc. Immobilisation plans.

Convoy U.S.2. (Aden) R. of P. 14/5 - 14/5/40 M.010809/40

LA SIBYLLE (French S/M) Patrol Report 16/5 - 24/5/40 M.011071/40

THETIS (French S/M) Patrol Report 16/5 - 25/5/40 M.011116/40

CLYDE Patrol Report 2/5 - 17/5/40 M.010259/40

FRIESLAND) German
BLANKENBURG) Trawlers Reports of Interception and Capture. M.09778/40

V.A.C. 18th C.S., MANCHESTER, War Diary 3 - 15 May 1940 T.S.D., 4159/40)

State of 18th C.S. 0001/1/5

MANCHESTER (Flag of V.A.) BIRMINGHAM) Proceeding to Aandalsnes to evacuate troops.

SOUTHAMPTON SHEFFIELD (Flag of R.A.)) At Aandalsnes evacuating troops and covering evacuation.

GLASGOW At Tromso after disembarking King of Norway and Norwegian Government.

NEWCASTLE EDINBURGH) Refitting on Tyne.

Covers the incident which led to torpedoing of KELLY by an enemy M.T.B. 9/5 and events during towing of KELLY towards Rosyth, until 1609/11. Necessity of refit for MANCHESTER. MANCHESTER gave one night's leave to each watch, for first time in nearly 6 months.

Operation X.D. Report on Calais (Party F.) M.010579

F.O.I.C.Portland. War Diary 1/5 - 15/5. T.S.D., 4936/40. Local Defence Measures, Degaussing Establishment, Contraband Control.

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. Thursday.

Home Commands.

AFRIKA sunk CLARA HUGO STINNES sunk.

It is reported that on 9/4 the Norwegian destroyer STEGG captured AFRIKA, (6503 tons) and CLARA HUGO STINNES (5295 tons) and took them to Ulvik on Hardanger Fjord where they were sunk later in order to prevent the Germans from recapturing them. The AFRIKA, which had a cargo of 2000 tons of iron ore, was flying the Dutch flag and the CLARA HUGO STINNES, Danish colours. (N.O./C. Lerwick 1552/9)

STORE SHIP TORPEDOED.

It is also reported that on May 5 a Norwegian submarine torpedoed a German store ship of about 2,000 tons near Sund in Soter, at the entrance to Bergen.

CAPRI, KURLAND } Were ordered by W/T 9/5 to load at Dantzig. (I.C.O.446/40)

SAAR Reported she was arriving at Landsort 0500/9 (I.C.O.446/40)

KONIGSBERG Was ordered at 0921/9 to proceed to Landsort (I.C.O.446/40).

REGINA Reported she would arrive Riga 0500/9 (I.C.O.446/40).

ROBERT LEY (Reported sunk in Skagerrak night 12/13 April). Press reports that Berlin has denied she was sunk.

North Atlantic.

RUDOLF ALBRECHT Tanker, left Ponta Delgada, Azores, 2100/8. Description. (D.D.I.C.1332/9).

Mediterranean.

MARITZA Arrived Sibetiens 6/5 to load 5,000 tons bauxite for Trieste. (N.A. Belgrade, 1415/9)

INGO .....

HAVOCK — R. of P. off Dutch Coast 9/5 - 15/5/40. M/010750/40

Aandalsnes (Force PRIMROSE) — R. of P. 17/4 to 1/5/40 by Capt. Denny, N.O.I/C Aandalsnes with accompanying report of Extended Defence Officer (M/08753/40). The report is in the form of a Diary with remarks.

Force Sickle disembarked on night 18/19 April.

Evacuation of Molde and Aandalsnes began on 29/4, and the last party left Aandalsnes in CALCUTTA 0110/2/5. AUCKLAND remained to take off the final party.

The following H.M. Trawlers were sunk by enemy air action during the operations :-

HAMMOND
JARDINE
BRADMAN
WARWICKSHIRE
LARWOOD
CAPE CHELYSKIN
CAPE SIRE TOKA

General remarks by N.O.I/C. Aandasnes are in M.08602/40, which docket contains also a copy of Capt. Denny's R. of P. as in M.08753/40)

C. in C.Rosyth, War Diary 1/5 - 14/5.

Enemy Air Activity, evacuations from Norway, Convoys.

SFAX (Fr. S/M) — Patrol Report 10/5 - 23/5/40 — M.011598/40

Convoy N.P.3. — R. of P. of H.M. Transports BATORY and SOBIESKI. M.010633/40

WESSEX — R. of P. on Dutch Coast 13/5 - 15/5 — M.09897/40

V.A.C.I.C.S. — War Diary 1/5 - 15/5. T.S.D. 4387/40. Norway

N.O.I.C. Tees-Hartlepool. — War Diary 1/5 - 14/5. T.S.D. 4157/40. Chiefly minesweeping.

AMAZONE (Fr. S/M.) — Patrol Report 11/5 - 12/5. — M.011570/40

CASABIANCA (Fr. S/M) — Patrol Report 9/5 - 21/5 — M.011571/40

Convoy Alabaster — Troop Convoy for Regkjavik, Iceland. R. of P. 14/5 - 25/5. M.011026/40.

WESTON AND VALENTINE — Report of depth charge attacks on S/M 5/5 and 6/5. M.09714/40.

GRIFFIN — R. of P. off Dutch Coast 12/5 - 13/5. M.011077/40.

WAR DIARY

9.5.40
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

S/Ms. Reported.

2252/8 By D/F, unidentified enemy unit 54° 35' N. 2° 10' E., unreliable fix, probable U-boat. (D.D.I.C.0035/9). Two corvettes to be sent to investigate and see if fishing trawlers are intact. (C. inC. Nore,0204/9 to F.O.I.C. Humber)

1850 By A/C 56° 35' N. 2° 30' E. (I.C.0.446/40)

Estimated dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 1259/9).

WAR DIARIES, R. of P., SUMMRIES, Etc. for MAY 1940

N.C.S.O., Methil.	War Diary 16/5 - 31/5. T.S.D. 4761/40. Measures for immobilising the port in an emergency.
P.O.I.C. Tyne.	War Diary 15/5.- 31/5 T.S.D. 5186/40. No interest.
R.A., A/A Ships.	War Diary 6/5 - 15/5 T.S.D., 5261/40. Operations in Norway. Refers to nervous strain on personnel (E.G. ESKIMO and trawlers) of constant air bombing by day and night.
Northern Patrol	R. of P. 1/5 - 14/5/40 (M.011370/40)
C. in C. Rosyth	War Diary 15/5 - 31/5/40 (T.S.D.4987/40) unsuccessful bombing by British A/C of ACHILLE
SPEARFISH	Patrol Report 12/5 - 24/5/40 M.010707/40
FLAMINGO	R. of P. 19/4 to 3/5/40. Air attacks at Andalsneo. M.09179/40
RUBIS (Fr.S/M)	R. of P. 23/5 to 30/5/40. (M.011823/40)

Capt. D. I.D.F. R. of P. 12/4 - 6/5. M.09174/40 (Norway) (SAN TIBURCIO lost)

C. in C. Home Fleet. War Diary 1 - 15 May 1940 (T.S.D.4587/40)

Contains precis of important signals dealing with

Narvik

Evacuation of Aandalsnes and Molde

Protection of Hut Anchorage at Scapa, as German occupation of Norway will enable them to establish air bases much closer to Orkneys.

Cruisers sailed for Sheerness 4/5 in view of German threat to Holland

Provision of escorts, anxious not to use Hunt class, designed for S/M hunting and nothing else.

Operation Fork to Iceland.

Dive-bombing attacks (see 4/5). Lessons from air attacks in Norway, proposals to strengthen destroyers' A/A armaments and R.A.F. to support naval operations. (6/5)

Iceland, possible enemy landing.

Scarcity of destroyers, "at present not one available to screen capital ships" 11/5

M.T.B. attack on KELLY. S/M dispositions altered.

CHINA.

Japanese Naval Visits.

Representing reaction to refusal for Japanese Training Sqdn. to visit British ports on grounds of inability to entertain them. Japanese cite case of Argentine Training Sqdn. visiting Capetown and Colombo. Suggests that rule should be made either that no neutral naval forces enter British Naval ports in time of war, or (if it is not desired that Japanese should even visit Rangoon, Calcutta) that visit of Argentine Training Sqdn. should be cancelled. (Mr. Gaigie, Hong Kong, No. T.0.0/9).

AUSTRALIA.

Troops.

Berth sailings arranged: STRATHEDEN leaving Sydney 22/5, 99 for Egypt, 731 for Marseilles. LARGS BAY leaving Sydney 28/5, 32 for Egypt, 515 for Marseilles. Cover is being provided focal point Australian Station. Request adequate cover be provided on other stations (Australian C.N.B.0432 Z/9).

R.A. Anti-Aircraft Ships, War Diary 16-31 May 1940 (T.S.D.5262/40)

COVENTRY — Engaged in operations off Norway

EFFINGHAM — report on loss of 17/5

Mosjon, Landing of Gubbins Force. M.011024/40 VETERAN
R. of P. 5 - 13 May.

RESTIGOUCHE, ST. LAURENT, SKEENA — R. of P. 24 - 31 May — M.01133T/40

French Navy, Summary of Activities since beginning of the War
(B.N.L.O., L/177/40)

17. 9.39	Attack on U-boat by A/C from aircraft carrier BEARN
10.39	" " " " patrol vessel ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ
22.11.39	2 U-boats destroyed within 3 days by SIROCO
27.12.39	Attack on U-boat by minesweeper COMMANDANT DUBOC
27.12.39	3rd U-boat sunk by SIROCO
?	Attack on U-boat by auxiliary trawler LORIENTAISE
27. 2.40	" " " " destroyer SIMOUN

German Merchant Ships Captured :-

CHEMNITZ	by submarine PONCELET. Sept. 1939
TRIFELS	BY auxiliary cruiser KOUTOUBIA. Nov. 1939
SANTA FE	by destroyer TRIOMPHANT, Nov. 1939
ROSTOCK	by M/S sloop ELAN off Vigo. 11.3.1940

EAST INDIES.

Shipping. Vessels diverted Aden for orders (C.in C. E.I., 1251/9)

Air Situation. Your 0816/6. Agree that minelayers and submarines present biggest potential threats to shipping in present circumstances. No evidence, however, that these threats exist in Indian Ocean at present. In war with Italy, Red Sea is our most vulnerable point. We are very short of aircraft in Egypt, and on broad grounds it is considered that available air resources can be better employed in Egypt than in India if we are at war with Italy. For this reason, Nos.11 and 39 Squadrons have been ordered to Aden and Egypt respectively. Not intended to move 60 Sqdn. from India, but reserves of aircraft now in India must be regarded as primarily available to reinforce Egypt. In order to conserve these reserves Air Ministry have suggested limiting activities of 60 Sqdn. for the present. Admiralty agree. If raider or submarine activity spreads to Indian Ocean, 60 Sqdn. will be available as at present, and question of allocating reserves to it will be considered in light of situation at the time. 203 Sqdn., Aden, now being re-equipped with long-nosed Blenheim aircraft. This together with redistribution referred to above should improve your position as regards Red Sea. (D.O.D.(F), 1328/9).

AMERICA & WEST INDIES.

ST. BLAZEY. Your 1130/2 and 1644/8. Approved to retain ST. BLAZEY for target-towing and general duties until SANDBOY practically repaired. (Hd. of M. 1322/9 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Whale Ships. LANCING and N.T.NIELSEN ALONSO to be advised to ignore all instructions sent them from Norway. (D.T.D.1444/9, to C.in C. A.W.I.)

IDA KNUDSEN. Norwegian tanker, to proceed to Bermuda, covered for marine and war risks by British Govt. (D.of S.T., 2236/9 to C.O.A.C.)

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries &C. received for May.

C.-in-C. Home Fleet.

War Diary 16-31 May 1940 (T.S.D.4588/40).
Narvik - shortage of destroyers 16/5.
Danger of attempted invasion of Shetlands 16/5, 17/5, 19/5, 23/5.
Operation Bottle (a/c minelaying) 16/5, 17/5.
Narvik - shortage of A.A. ammunition 17/5.
Congestion at Harstad; Anglo-French subsidiary base to be formed at Tromso 17/5, 19/5.
Magnetic mines being laid in harbours; some sweeps to be converted for use in restricted waters 19/5.
More attention to be paid to fitting out and storing of transports for use in Northern waters 21/5.
Freetown Convoy Escort Force to be reinforced about mid-June by 4 A.M.C.'s from Northern Patrol 21/5.
A/c Squadrons disembarked from Carriers to be used in co-operation with Coastal Command during present emergency 22/5.
11th A/S Group to proceed to Harwich 22/5.
A.A. ship, possible vital used for presence in Channel in near future 22/5.
A.A. defences of Shetlands23/5.
Norwegian warships captured by Germans being operated by Germans 23/5.
Invasion, risk of Precautionary measures to be taken 24/5, 25/5, 26/5.
Force of destroyers to be collected at Rosyth ready to operate on East Coast if required 24/5.
Destroyers - highest priority to be given to repairs 25/5.
Demolition charges - immediate reserves exhausted - improvised charges to be used ships to land all except minimum outfit 25/5.
Approach channels - reduction in width owing to recent attemps to magnetic mines approaches 26/5.
Stavanger, attack cancelled owing to weather 26/5.
S/m's - in view of present serious situation all s/m's to be available in centre or southern part of North Sea. Propose to release s/m's for patrol by discontinuing minelaying by s/m's on coast of Norway 27/5, 28/5.
Operation Alphabet 27/5, 28/5, 31/5.
Cruisers, employment of in southern part of North Sea 28/5.
Minesweeping on East Coast - plan Flood 29/5.
Destroyers, - 5th D.F. formed 30/5.
Destroyer patrols 31/5.

R.A.(D) Home Fleet

War Diary 1-15 May 1940 (T.S.D.4612/40)
First evacuation of Aandalsnes and Molde - ships engaged 1/5.

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries NO. received for May.

C.-in-C. Home Fleet.

War Diary 16-31 May 1940 (T.S.D.4588/40).
Narvik - shortage of destroyers 16/5.
Danger of attempted invasion of Shetlands 16/5, 17/5, 19/5, 23/5.
Operation Battle (a/c minelaying) 16/5, 17/5.
Narvik - shortage of A.A. ammunition 17/5.
Congestion at Harstad; Anglo-French subsidiary base to be formed at Tromso 17/5, 19/5.
Magnetic mines being laid in harbours; some sweeps to be converted for use in restricted waters 19/5.
More attention to be paid to fitting out and storing of transports for use in Northern waters 21/5.
Freetown Convoy Escort Force to be reinforced about mid-June by 4 A.M.C.'s from Northern Patrol 21/5.
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A.A. defences of Shetlands23/5.
Norwegian warships captured by Germans being operated by Germans 23/5.
Invasion, risk of Precautionary measures to be taken 24/5, 25/5, 26/5.
Force of destroyers to be collected at Rosyth, ready to operate on East Coast if required 24/5.
Destroyers - highest priority to be given to repairs 25/5.
Demolition charges - immediate reserves exhausted - improvised charges to be used - ships to land all except minimum outfit 25/5.
Approach channels - reduction in width owing to recent attemps to magnetic mines approaches 26/5.
Stavanger, attack cancelled owing to weather 26/5.
S/m's - in view of present serious situation all s/m's to be available in centre or southern part of North Sea. Propose to release s/m's for patrol by discontinuing minelaying by s/m's on coast of Norway 27/5, 28/5.
Operation Alphabet 27/5, 28/5, 31/5.
Cruisers, employment of in southern part of North Sea 28/5.
Minesweeping on East Coast - plan Flood 29/5.
Destroyers, - 5th D.F. formed 30/5.
Destroyer patrols 31/5.

R.A.(D) Home Fleet

War Diary 1-15 May 1940 (T.S.D.4612/40)
First evacuation of Aandalsnes and Molde - ships engaged 1/5.

War Diaries, R. of P, Summaries &c. received for May.

R.A.(D) Home Fleet

Final evacuation of Aandalsnes and Molde completed 2/5.
MAORI damaged by bombing by a/c's which could neither be seen nor heard 2/5.
Evacuation of Namsos (operation Klason 1 & 2) completed 3/5.
Landing at MO 4/5.
Eight modern destroyers required for duty in East Coast 8/5.
Redisposition of cruisers and destroyers in North Sea to intercept a minelaying and M.T.B. force 9/5, 10/5, 14/5
Oerlikon A.A. guns for destroyers 10/5.
Norway - German landing at Hemnes 10/5.
Destroyer reinforcements for Mediterranean 15/

A.C.O.S.

War Diary for May 1940. (T.S.D. 4836/40)

2300/9/5 Ramming of BULLDOG by M.T.B.
Torpedoing of KELLY.

1755/24/5 Grounding off s.s. LAURESTON at Greenbines, Stronsay.

1130/25/5 Collision and beaching of s.s. TENNESSEE.

1906/25 FORD FISHER in collision with trawler, to be towed to Aberdeen or Inverness.

2200/31 Arrival of ALSTER at Kirkwall with prize crew.

C.-in-C. Nore.

War Diary 1-15/5/40. (T.S.D.4811/40).

ASCANIA

R. of P. with Convoy HX 38 26/4-14/5/40 (MO13447/40).

GLOUCESTER

War Diary for May 1940 (T.S.D.4738/40).

C.-in-C. Western Approaches.

War Diary 16-31/5/40 (T.S.D.5212/40).

Changes in Policy in April and May 1940.
Dartmouth area - Defence against invasion.
Operation Dynamo. Belgian Fisning Fleet, refusal to assist in evacuation of troops from Dunkirk. Good work done, however, by Tanker JULIA.

Note. Remainder indexed chronologically in this Diary.

Minelaying off Norwegian Coast.

Operations F.D.14, F.D.15, F.D.17.

French s/m RUBIS, report 9-10 May, 26-27 May, 9 June 1940. (MO 12367/40).

Operation X.D.

R. of P. of Party C. 10/5-17/5/40. (MO.10180/40

Northern Patrol

R. of P.15-31 May 1940 (MO.12193/40).

21/5 Redisposition of A.M.C.'s. CANTON, CORFU, MALOSA, MONTCLARE ordered to replace CARINTHIA CHESHIRE, DERBYSHIRE, PATROCLUS which were under orders of F.O.C.N.A.

War Diaries, R. of P, Summaries &c. received for May.

R.A.(D) Home Fleet

Final evacuation of Aandalsnes and Molde completed 2/5.
MAORI damaged by bombing by a/c's which could neither be seen nor heard 2/5.
Evacuation of Namsos (operation Klason 1 & 2) completed 3/5.
Landing at MO 4/5.
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War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries etc. received for June, 1940.

18th C.S. War Diary 1-15 June 1940 (T.S.D. 4437/40).

MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, BIRMINGHAM and 3 destroyers under operational control of C. in C., Nore. At Humber 3/6. The 3 destroyers (FURY, FORESIGHT, FORTUNE ordered to Harwich. No replacements available,
5/6 WALPOLE and GALLANT arrived Humber.
10/6. Cruisers left Humber for Rosyth, as presence in Humber now probably known to enemy.
NEWCASTLE covering convoys from Norway.
15/6. Command of 18th C.S. was transferred to V.A. Sir G.B.F. Edward Collins K.C.V.O., C.B.

N.O.I.C. Blyth, War Diary 1-14 June 1940 (T.S.D. 4337/40).

No interest.

NARWHAL - Patrol Report 9 - 18 June (M.012544/40).

Laid mines 12/6 off Rovaer.

H.34. Patrol report for 8-15 June 1940 (M.012371/40).

No events.

Operation X.D. Party L. (Cherbourg Demolition R. of P. 13/6/40. M.O. 12174/40).

Lack of Higher Military Command.
Satisfactory work of younger R.E. officers.

N.O.I.C. Iceland R. of P. 2/6 - 15/6/40. M.012206/40.

TRIAD Patrol Report 29/5 - 12/6/40. M.011671/40.

Aircraft minelaying. Reports of 5 enemy minelaying operations on 2/6, 3/6, 6/6, 7/6. (M.011218/40).

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE Was Diary 5-25 June 1940 (M.012564/40).

Steamed 38,174 miles from 6/2-25/6. In port 18 days.

French M.T.Bs at Antibes, possible retention of, N.I.D. 2665/40.

SALMON	Patrol Report 20/5 - 3/6/40	M.011592/40.
STURGEON	Patrol Report 22/5 - 6/6/40	M.011594/40.
TRIDENT	Patrol Report 18/5 - 3/6/40	M.011597/40.
Convoy HX 45	Report of Commodore. T.D.(C) 729/40, dated 8.6.40	
Submarine L.26	Patrol Report dated 1/6/40.	M.011213/40.
NARWHAL	R. of P. on patrol 1/6 - 5/6.	M.011593/40.
SEAWOLF	Patrol Report 29/5 - 8/6.	M.011630/40.
SEVERN	Patrol Report 25/5 - 7/6	M.011828/40.
TRUANT	Patrol Report 16/5 - 1/6	M.010971/40.
ORZEL	Polish submarine. Information on last patrol and loss of. (V.A.S. No. 632/SM 116, 17/6/40).	
TRITON	Patrol Report 19/5 - 2/6. M.011651/40. Examination of Danish fishing vessel 2/6. Bona fide fishermen.	
TAKU	Patrol Report 27.5. - 12.6.40 M.012015/40. No incidents.	

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries etc. received for June 1940.

Operation Cycle (evacuation of British and French troops in Havre district) M.011853/40. Transports sailed pm/9, operation completed 0400/13. About 11,200 men were evacuated from Havre; and 1350 British and 930 French from St. Valery. Following ships were lost:-

BRUGES - Passenger vessel - by air attack.
No.2 Train Ferry - by air attack.
2 Dutch Schoots - one mined and one sunk by shore batteries.
8 small motor craft.
Several lifeboats abandoned.
H.M. Ships damaged - BULLDOG, BOADICEA, AMBUSCADE, H.M.T.B.69.

REVENGE — R. of P. 30/5 - 8/6/40 (M.012082/40).
REVENGE took £40,000,000 in gold to Halifax.

TRIBUNE — Patrol Report 10-25 June 1940. (M.012755/40).
21/6 supported SOUTHAMPTON class cruiser sighted.
22/6 unsuccessful attack on an M.V.

ICELAND — Report of N.O.I.C. 21/5-2/6 (M.011172/40, M.011366/40).
Intention to use Hvalfjodr as an advanced fuelling base for general fleet purposes and as a temporary anchorage for a striking force.

COMET — Patrol Report 8-19 June 1940 (M.012521/40)
Special secret patrol.

Operation Alphabet — Group I evacuation of troops from Northern Norway. R. of P. 28.5.-10.6. by V-A.Hill. (M.011319/40).

5/6 embarked: and proceeded. Arrived Greenock 10/6.

MONARCH OF BERMUDA	2265
GEORGIC	2026
BATORY	2261
LANCASTRIA	2651
SOBIESKI	1762
FRANCONIA	2617
VINDICTIVE	306
	13,888

Submarine H.28 R. of P. 14/6 - 24/6/40. (M.012989/40).

V.A. Battle Cruiser Squadron War Diary 1-16/6/40 (T.S.D. 4288/40).

VIVACIOUS — R. of P. 15/6-18/6/40 (M.012240/40)
Unsuccessful E-boat attack.

N.O.I.C. Tees-Hartlepool War Diary 1/6-14/6/40. (T.S.D.5162/40).

~~[illegible] Patrol Report 18/6-25/6/40 (M.012941/40). Received AOI 6th July 1940.~~

WILK — Patrol Report 18/6-25/6/40 (M.012941/40).

N.O.I.C. Dundee — War Diary 1/6-15/6/40. (T.S.D.4512/40).

F.O. — Norwegian Military H.Q. Intelligence Request. (N.I.D. 02485/40).

Operation XD — Party J (Havre, demolitions) Report (M.012210/40)
Demolitions were carried out on 10/6.
Comdr. Chatwin and his party were in Havre for 2 or 3 weeks. As result of orders given by French Admiral commanding no lock gates or caissons were destroyed.

SOUTHAMPTON — R. of P. 2/6-15/6/40 (M.012057/40).
Operation Alphabet.
Embarkation of troops from Harstad.
Sinking of VANDYCK, GLORIOUS.

GLEANER — R. of P. 6/6-9/6 (M.012197/40).
Assistance to CARINTHIA & EROS.

N.C.S.O. Methil — War Diary 1/6 - 16/6/40 (T.S.D. 4763/40).
(Actually diary 16-30/6/40 wrongly marked on outside).

Submarine H.44 — Patrol Report 18/6-25/6/40. (M.013072/40).

WAR DIARY — HOME COMMANDS. — 1.6.40. Saturday.

Operation Dynamo

Analysis of ships' reports establishes that 35 enemy aircraft were destroyed and at least 21 others were damaged and in distress, all by ships' gunfire between 0300/27 and 2000/1. (V.A.Dover 834/17).

Casualties & Defects.

SCOTIA — Bombed and machine-gunned and sunk off Dunkirk. Had 2000 French troops on board, number lost not known, 28 of crew lost, 54 saved (Board of Trade.)

ST.HELIER. — 1952 tons. Shelled by enemy Coastal batteries in Dunkirk harbour 1830/1 while embarking troops. Damaged. No lives lost. (Board of Trade.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and W. Indies.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1706/1 sea operations, Iceland.

Your 1425/16/5 if Italy enters war in next 48 hours propose to despatch EMERALD to mop up Italian trawlers on banks &c. and LACONIA to assist in Nantuket area. (R.A. 3 B.S 2054/1)

South Atlantic

General situation in South American Countries. (Report by N.A.Buenos Aires) (N.I.D. 02272/40).

Ships attacked

STANHALL sunk. By torpedo 60 m.S.Lizard RESTIGOUCHE and ST.LAURENT obtained contact 7 m. S.W. 31/5. At 1840 report hunt completed, success doubtful. ARABIS and FERNIE ordered to take over contact, A/S Trawler LORD HAILSHAM to stand by.(U-boat incidents report 270 No.1071.)

TEMPLEMOAT Reached harbour and reported that she was not as previously stated attacked by a U-boat. (U-boat Incidents Report 270 1073.)

ASTRONOMER Report of Court of Enquiry as to sabotage and now established that she was torpedoed (N.L.6513/40.)
Sunk in 58 2'N, 2 12' W. 109 survivors. (T.S.D.4163/40).

S/ms. Reported. By Dutch S/m. O.13 position 056° C.Barfleur 24 m.Course 300° 8 knots. (U-boat incidents Report 270 1074.)
At 1046/1 ARABIS and FERNIE ordered to search 193° Start Point 66 m.U-boat reported at 0100. (U-boat incidents Report 270 1072).

RENOWN Motorboat mined and sunk off Dunkirk 0230/1 while assisting evacuation.
4 lives lost (Board of Trade).

War Diary — HOME COMMANDS. — 2.6.40. Sunday.

Air.

Enemy Air Activity

S.T. GREY NIGHT. — Sunk in air attack 0930/2 54°40'N 1°30' E. Sunk by incendiary bomb. Skipper killed in lifeboat, 4 others wounded by machine-gun fire. (I.D. Form A.A.)

KATREEN Seine Netting — Damaged in air attack 0940/2, 85 miles E.N.E. Humber L.t. V. 10 bombs and gunned for 1½ hours. No casualties. (I.D. Form A.A.) Master's interview on 7/6 (S.C.Section, Trade Division).

S.T.AQUARIUS — Damaged by machine-gun bullets 1100/2, 54°50'N 1°25'E while trawling. No casualties (I.D. Form A.A.)

NOVELLI — Damaged by machine-gun 54°37'N, 1°55'E., at 1100 G.M.T. 6 attacks, over 100 hits, raked fore and aft. No casualties. (I.D. Form A.A.).

AENOS. — Greek (3554 tons) attacked at Marseilles.

EL NIL — Egyptian (7690 tons) attacked at Marseilles.

Casualties & Defects.

CATS EYE — British Trawler bombed 94' N.E. by E. Spurn Point at 1020/2. Afloat but badly riddled. (I.D. Form A.A.).

LIBERIA — British trawler 250 tons bombed at 1100/2 at 54 45'N. 1 30'E. Badly damaged. Six bombs dropped; one hit but did not explode. (I.D. Form A.A.)

FOSSA — 105 tons. Stranded and abandoned off Dunkirk 0230/2. No casualties. Has become a total loss (Board of Trade).

ENA — 90 tons. Damaged by bombing at Dunkirk, date not given but apparently 2/6. Found stranded off Sandwich 5/6 (was abandoned 2/6). Has since been refloated (Board of Trade).

U-Boat Campaign & Mining.

Ships attacked.

BLACK BURN ROVERS)
WESTELLA) — Report on probable cause of sinking, from Capt (A.P.) Dover. Cause attributed to mines. M.011248/40.

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

2.6.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Watch on Northern Straits.

So far as I know the following ships, VON TIRPITZ, 2 Pocket Battleships, one 8-inch Cruiser, and 4 6-inch Cruisers, are capable of attempting breaking out at any time. With the present forces available I cannot keep an adequate watch and guard over Northern Straits. Pending return of some of my forces, the following air patrols Stand, Hornli (both if possible 3 times daily) and Denmark Straits, are essential, also maximum photographic R/C of Kiel.
I consider a T/B Striking Force based Iceland is an urgent need. (C. in C. H.F. 0043/2 to Admty B

REPULSE to land her Torpedoes.

Request early information of result of board of enquiry into loss of HOOD. In meantime I intend order REPULSE to land her torpedoes on her return to a U.K. port. At present I do not intend same action for Cruisers as tubes are in open. (C. in C. H.F. 1203B/2 to Admty.)

3.6.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Watch on Northern Straits.

Your 0043B/2. Your difficulties in keeping adequate watch are fully appreciated.
1. Denmark Straits. These Straits will be kept patrolled to the maximum possible extent that aircraft available and weather permit.
2. Norwegian Coast Patrols. "Stand" will be flown at dawn and dusk.
In lieu of "Hornli" it is proposed to fly "Sleeve" at dusk whenever practicable and a modified "Sleeve from 58° N., 60° 30' E. to 57°N 5° E. whenever unsuitable weather conditions make it impossible to fly "Sleeve" proper

/3....

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Watch on Northern Straits-Contd.

3. Norwegian Ports Reconnaissance. Norwegian coast and ports from Stavanger to Trondjhem will be covered whenever possible by P.R.U. aircraft at dawn and dusk. This however, depends on the availability of P.R.U. aircraft, which are of limited numbers. When P.R.U. aircraft are not forthcoming, G.R. aircraft will be flown in their place.
4. German Ports Reconnaissance. Kiel will be photographed as often as possible, as also will be other German ports.
5. Torpedo Bomber Squadrons. It is at present impracticable to base torpedo bombers on Iceland, owing to:-
(a) Unsuitable aerodromes. Hope however remedy for this will be complete by the end of June.
(b) Lack of facilities for torpedo maintenance until Naval assistance in Iceland can be given. This must await the arrival of a Depot Ship.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1237B/3 to C. in C. H.F.)

Technical

R/D.F.

A.L. S.D.O.2140/41 of 12/5/41. It is very important to increase the gun ranging capabilities of R/D.F. in capital ships and the tactical warning in cruisers. If Type 271 is likely to meet these requirements I must request that all capital ships and cruisers, in that order, should have priority over light craft, and that very early action may be taken to fit, this being done at Scapa if possible.
2. The potentialities of R/D.F. were amply demonstrated in the recent operation, as were also the limitations of our present sets and the disadvantage which would arise if the enemy should outrange with his R/D.F.
3. Letter follows. (C. in C. H.F. 1612B/3 to Admty.)

/FOREIGN STATIONS..

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

3.6.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

A/S Vessels Freetown. — S/M activity in Freetown area necessitates immediate reinforcement of A/S vessels.
2. No more corvettes can at present be spared from Western Approaches as convoys now have to be escorted whole way across Atlantic.
3. Mediterranean also requires M/S reinforcements as soon as possible.
4.5. Re allocation of M/S Trawlers.
(1st S.L., 2359B/3 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

5.6.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA. — Admty. 1604B/18/5. Ammunition is due at Capetown on 4/7 in SS CLAN MACBRAYNE. Adml. Muselier is anxious she should proceed as early as practicable to embark this ammunition and then go to Tahiti where it is considered that her presence is desirable for security reasons. C. in C. Med. is requested to arrange to obtain the views of General de Gaulle on this proposal, and C. in C. E.I. to sail the ship as necessary should de Gaulle concur.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 0041B/5 to C. in C. E.I., C. inC. Med.)

6.6.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Advance Against Bagdad. — My 0434/31. It has been decided to continue with this operation. S.N.O.P.G. 1216/4 being passed to you refers. (C. in C. E.I. 0722Z/6 to Admty.)

War Diary. 6.6.40.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

HARACOLO. HARACALO 1200/6 51°19' N. 1°32' E. Violent explosion caused by mine. Severe damage. Crew took to boats. Tugs towed ship. (Interview with Master, Shipping Casualties Section, Trade Division).

FRANCES MASSEY Torpedoed without warning 55°25' N., 8°33' W. at about 2400/6. Interview with Master, Capt. W. Whitehead, who was picked up by a destroyer about noon 7/6. (Trade Division, Casualties).

S/ms. Reported.

1145 By S.S. HIGHWOOD, steaming up Bristol Channel from Rouen towards Newport , sighted periscope about 12 miles off, ship's position 50°09' N., 5°47'W. Fired a shell from 12-pdr. gun at the periscope which fell short. Two planes took up the attack and dropped several bombs, and ship proceeded on course.
(Report of Capt. I. Stephenson, Master).

War Diary. 6.6.40
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Evacuation of Norway.

My 1505/5. VALIANT sails 2100/6 with orders meet Group 1 and give close support Dover to Lat. 61° N. and then return to meet Group 2. A/S escort of 5 destroyers will rendezvous with Group 1 at 63°N. 4° W. to escort them to Clyde. Both Groups routed as in my 1505/5. (C. in C. H.F. 1807/6 to F.O. Narvik).

Narvik. It now appears Norwegians may continue resistance after our evacuation. Most important that news of our evacuation kept secret as long as possible in order not to prejudice Norwegian plans. Trust you can arrange this in London and Paris. (Genl.Authinleck to Genl. Dill 2302/6).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Red Sea Force. Flag of S.N.O., Red Sea Force, was transferred from LIVERPOOL to LEANDER on 4/6. The composition of the Red Sea Force is at present as follows :-

Cruisers LEANDER (Flag), HOBART.
A/A Ship CARLISLE.
28th Div. Destroyers, KANDAHAR, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY, KHARTOUM.
Sloops, AUCKLAND, FLAMINGO, SHOREHAM, CORNWALLIS, GRIMSBY.

Aden Force. The following are based on Aden and will be known as t the Aden Force :-

Minesweepers, HUNTLEY, DERBY.
A/S Vessels, AMBER, MOONSTONE.
Contraband Control Service, CHANTALA, CHAKDINA, SAGITTA.
(M.07210/40, Serial No. 507, 6.6.40).

China.

Anglo-Thai Pact. Intercepted letter from Italian Legation, Bangkok, to Rome, intercepted Calcutta, states that as a result forceful Japanese representations completion of Anglo-Thai Pact would be delayed to prevent it being signed before Thai-Japanese Non-Aggression Pact.(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0858/6.)

Ichang Area. Situation. If Ichang threatened, approved to withdraw H.M.S. FALCON to Chungking. Ichang raided by light bombers 1128 today. Damage and casualties very slight. (S.N.O. Upper River, 1953/6).

War Diary.

9.6.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Evacuation of Norway.

ORAMA is proceeding empty and unescorted to U.K. (C. in C. H.F. 0956/9).

Sinking of GLORIOUS.

VALIANT's 0901/9. Following was read, reception very doubtful on 3700/C.I.S. at 1720/8. Begins V.A.(A) from GLORIOUS. My 1615 2 PB. T.O.O. 1640 ends. GLORIOUS 1615 not received (C.S.1 1031/9).

VALIANT's 0901/9. Pressure you are putting up all round air reconnaissance. (F.O. Narvik 1102/9 to R.A.A.)

Group 1 reported 270 Butt of Lewis 12 steering 090 at 0611. (C. in C. Rosyth 0928/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

Position, course, and speed of Group 2 at 1800 is 67° 40' N. 1° 40' E. 270° 13 knots. Altering course at 2200 for 63° N. 8° W. thence to Mincheo passing West of Faroes. ARROW escorting Store convoy to take command at 65° N. 10° W. thence to destination. (F.O.I.C. Narvik 1805/9 to ARROW).

Enemy Air Activity.

DULWICH. British (4102 tons) burning, beached, and abandoned at the Mouth of the Seine. (D.S.284)

MAX WOLF. Greek (6694 tons) attacked in Channel.

VALIANT. Bombed 65° 23' N. 2° 39' E. (VALIANT 1530/9).

War Diary

13.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Dutch Coast

Hook of Holland - Operation Harpoon.

Force Disembarked — Disembarkation at Hook of Holland unopposed but interrapted by constant air raid alarms, hostile aircraft sighted, no bombing. (D.16, 0732/13).

Landing of Battalion — Following received from Hook. Landing of battalion should be completed by 1000 providing there is no hold-up. (V.A.Dover, 0846/13).

R.M. — Royal Marines are not to return until ordered. (V.A.Dover, 0849/13).

Larger Force Suggested — Guards Battalion intend to advance through Marines who will remain securing bases at Hook of Holland until relieved. It seems an opportunity to send a larger force and advance while still unopposed. Have landed Lieut. Robertson with type 53 W/T apparatus as Liaison Officer with Guards. (Capt.D.16, 0940/13).

Harpoon Operation Completed. — Harpoon completed. WIVERN and BOREAS with CANTERBURY sailed 0945. Am proceeding now with MAID OF ORLEANS (Capt.(D)19, 1120/13).

Second Battalion referred to in my 1656/12 will probably be sent to arrive Hook during night 14-15th May. R.M. Force will probably be withdrawn in ships bringing this battalion. (D.O.D.(H) 1923/13 to V.A., Dover).

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

7.6.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation S.N. 64.

Propose to carry out operation S.N. 64 as follows (a) surface minefield S.N. 64 A and S.N. 64 B from S.E. to N.W. (c) (1) AGAMEMNON MENESTHEUS, SCOTT, BRIGHTON, ST. MARYS (11) C.S. 10 in NIGERIA. Two destroyers (f) S.N.64 A from 300 fathoms line approx. 060° 22' 18" N., 006° 17' 18" W. in 329° direction for 15 miles. S.N. 64 D from 300 fathoms line in approx. 060° 24' 30" N., 005° 51' 30" W. in 329° direction for 8½ miles (L) S.N. 64 A 0815/10 S.N. 64 B 1230/10. (r) Leave Loch Ewe a.m./9 (R.A.M. 0846B/7)

SCOTT

My 0846/7. Proceed as necessary a.m./9 to lay beacon A. and B. You should complete this work and return to port Z.A. as soon as possible Fuel if necessary at Skaale Fiord. (R.A.M.L. 0847B/7 to SCOTT)

12.6.1941.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation S.N. 66.

Intend to carry out operation S.N. 66 as follows.
(a) Surface minefield from S.E. to N.W.
(j) Through position (1) 270° Cape Wrath 12
(2) 060° 35' N., 005° 25' W. and Lervig Fiord.
(1) 0700 16/6.
AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, BRIGHTON, CASTLETON ST. MARY'S, WELLS.
(R.A.M. 1148B/12,1212B/14)

/Submarines....

HOME COMMANDS

Air.

Enemy Air Activity

RIVER NESS — Bombed and sunk approx. 8 miles N.E. by N. of the Outer Skerries. Interview with Capt. D.B. Craig, Master (Trade Div., Casualties Section, 14/6). Refers to R.A.F. on his return to Lerwick being annoyed at receiving no S.O.S. although BRACONDENE, in company, had sent one. Wick Radio said their instructions were to inform the Wick authorities, Lyness, and the Wick lifeboat, not to pass information to anyone else.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Disposition of Italian submarines — Your 1146/8.* Following 8 Italian submarines South of Suez on 10/6 GUGLIELMOTTI, GALVANI, TORRICELLI, FERRARIS, ARCHIMEDE, GALILEI, PERLA, MACALLE. Only movements known as follows 3 submarines no names reported off Ras Hafun on 1st June, ARCHIMEDE reported off coast Italian East Africa on 5th June. Only information available endurance and minelaying contained in C.B.1815 (October) 1939 or (April) 1940. Note in C.B. that TORRICELLI and ARCHIMEDE+serving in Spanish Navy now considered untrue. (D.N.I. 1555/10 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown

* Requesting information available as to radius of action, minelaying capabilities and movements of Italian s/m's south of Suez.

Italian Merchant Ships

MARZOCCO — Seized off Peterhead. Entire crew captured but ship had been scuttled in accordance with radio instructions. The MARZOCCO finally ran aground 11/6. (T.S.D. 4163/40)

U-BOAT CAMPTAIGN AND MINING

Ships Attacked

VIOLANDO N.
GOULANDRIS — sunk — Greek 3598. Sunk by s/m off Cape Finisterre Crew landed. (D.S. 284)

SONJA — sunk — Swedish (1820 tons) sunk off Floro, near Bergen. 10/6. 9 survivors, 12 lost.

VANDYCK — sunk — M/S Trawler sunk off Andenes (Harstad) p.m./10. Believed torpedoed. 5 crew missing, 6 seriously wounded. Stockholm report (B.C.N.S. 262)

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

10.5.40.
Friday.

Home Commands.

POLARIS. Re-German trawler. Admiralty 1917/3. To preserve secrecy proposed that vessels be renamed. Early action is required for purposes of mails, etc., (A.C.O.S.1830/10)

DUISBERG. Informed Rugen station she had arrived Tallinn 9/5 and reported heavy ice.

ELISABETH BORNHOFEN. Ordered by W/T on 10/5 to load at Danzig. (I.C., 0447/10)

America and West Indies.

PATRICIA
ALLEMANIA
HENRY HORN Attempted scuttling, unsuccessful. (Reuter Willenstad, Dutch West Indies 1935/10)

GOSLAR Georgetown reports scuttled Paramaribo (A.2) (S.O.I. Kingston 1936/10)

North Atlantic.

KLAUS SCHOKE
LUISE BORNHOFEN Have now anchored off the harbour of Horta, Azores (A.1)

GERMANIA Tanker, attempting to sell her cargo of petrol. (A.1) (I.C., 0447/40)

CORRIENTES. Canary Islands (Las Palmas) damaged and rendered unseaworthy by an internal explosion, origin unknown, and has been moved with OSTMARK to inner harbour 10/5 (I.C. 0447/40)

War Diary

10.6.40.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

s/m's attacked	
2147	At 2147/10 DECOY sighted unescorted s/m in 32° 39'N, 25° 37'E. S/m was attacked then and later on firm contact. Search showed no wreckage but large oil patch daylight 11 June. (C.O.I.S. Mediterranean 1156/12)

FOREIGN STATIONS (Continued).

East Indies.

U.S.2. Position see M.S.M, Your 0432/9, sailings for troops. Adequate cover will be provided on East Indies Station. (C. in C. E.I. 11512/10 to A.C.N.B.).

Dutch Ships. To be delayed sailing. (C. in C. E.I. 0803/10)

Australia.

U.S.3. Position see M.S.M.

China.

F.E.S.S. Cancel my 0724/10, re formation of F.E.S.S. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 14502/10, to Admiralty for D.N.I.).

D.F. Station. Reported by Marconi engineer that Direction Island H/F D/F station is ready for service. Request early arrangement to send watchkeepers (D.D.I.C. to C. in C. China1717/10).

America & West Indies.

Dutch West Indies. Ref. to F.O. tel. No.19 and Bermuda 0947. All Germans on the islands including women were arrested by six a.m./10. All German ships captured and crews removed. My impression situation is fully in hand and landing party of Allied troops would not be welcomed. (Consul, Willemstad, Dutch W. Indies, 1410/10).

Offer of 2 destroyers. By Canadian Government for offensive actionin West Indies area. (C.N.S. Ottawa 1449/10).

War Diary. HOME COMMANDS. 12.6.40. Wednesday.

Air.

Norway. Order of Battle of German Air Force in Norway. (N.I.D.02370/40).

SS.GRO. (Norwegian) reported by Master that he was attacked evening 12/6 by enemy triple engined seaplanes, in position 240 miles W.N.W. of Lofotemis. The a/c's carrying out the attack appeared from direction of Jan Mayen Island (I.C.0491/40) 70° 5' N. 4° 0' E. approx. attacked 2115/12. Damaged by machine from fire, I.W.(1D Form AA)

Casualties and Defects.

Train Ferry No.2. British, 2687 tons, was abandoned on the beach at Le Havre 12/6 during the withdrawal of troops.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta. Heavy bombing attack about 20 planes commenced 1725 C.M.T. yesterday with Dockyard and TERROR apparently as objectives Neither objective damaged. Very heavy bombs dropped in sea off Tigne while others caused considerable damage Verdala barracks further damage caused to civil property Sliema, Tarxien, Paula, and Zabbar areas. Two enemy planes destroyed one confirmed one unconfirmed. Casualties military 7 wounded civilians approximately 30 killed 50 wounded (C. in C. Malta 1418/12 to War Office)

Reference my 2321 11th June. Naval casualties in last nights raids killed 1 officer 2 wounded 1 chief engine room artificer and 6 ratings killed. Civilian casualties 25 killed 125 wounded. I now consider from H.M.S. DIAMOND's evidence that her attack on submarine probably successful. (FDIC.Malta 2231/12 to Admiralty).

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Dutch Coast (contd.)

VERSATILE to patrol — Cancel my 2358/12 join MOHAWK off Dutch coast and take Nore destroyers under your orders. Capt. (D) 16th D.F. in MALCOLM is at present senior officer in Hook Maintain patrol off coast and act as circumstances require keeping Capt. (D) 16th D.F. informed.

(C. in C., Nore, 1010/13 to VERSATILE).

Enemy M.T.Bs. — Ships operating off Dutch Coast should bear in mind the possibility of attack from M.T.B.s operating from Ems. An air reconnaissance of the Dutch Coast is made at dusk every day. (D.S.O., 2256/13).

(V.C.N.S., 1533/13)

Zuider Zee

VALOROUS to bombard — GRIFFIN is returning to Harwich. Dutch warship is to bombard east coast of Zuider Zee by dam. Collect local pilot and assist. Floating mines were seen in approaches (C. in C., Nore, 0208/13 to VALOROUS, repeated HEREWARD etc.).

Rotterdam

Summary of information from reliable sources May 12th:

(a) North Bank. Germans believed holding bridge head not more than 100 yards radius - sporadic outbursts of firing - local Nazi-Socialist-Bund snipers in houses. Otherwise Dutch in control.

(b) Centre. Holland-Amerika Line dock area in flames.

(c) South. Heavy firing. Germans reported retreating towards Dordrecht but Dutch General Staff reports troops land continuously Waalhaven aerodrome and Feyenoord sports arena. (The Hague, 0532/13).

War Diary. 12.6.40.
WEDNESDAY.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships Attacked.

ELLA ROY escaped. British, attacked at 0045/12 in position 42° 26' N. 11° W. Two torpedoes fired, both wide. (Consul, Oporto, 1100/13, A.S.W.D. 283, 14/6).

BARBARA MARIE sunk. British 4223. Torpedoed and sunk 220 miles W.N.W. from Cape Finisterre. (D.S.284) (CARNARVON CASTLE 2115/12).

BARON SALTOUN. Mined 0315/12 when heading towards the eastern entrance of Cherbourg Harbour. Interview with Master, Capt. F. Peebles, 15/6. (Trade Div. Casualties). Thinks the explosion set off the magazine, which was in the poop. Survivors rescued by French patrol boat, which arrived within about 5 minutes.

PORPOISE. At 0950/12 in 62° 30' N. 3° E. PORPOISE was attacked by U-boat at 400 yards range. Miss close ahead. (VAS.1742/25 to Admiralty).

Mediterranean.

ORKANGER. Norwegian tanker, torpedoed and sunk at 2300/12 about 40 miles N.W. of Alexandria. 2 torpedoes hit with an interval of 10 minutes between them. This was the first merchant ship to be sunk by an Italian U-boat. There were 4 casualties. (O.S.W.D.283,14/6).

MAKIS. Greek (3546 tons) was mined and sunk 12/6 near Pantellaria. (O.S.).

CALYPSO sunk 12/6. My 1401/13. CALYPSON and CALEDON were stationed 6 miles ahead of Battle Fleet and 4 miles astern of A/S screen who were at visibility distance apart. Evidence suggests torpedoing, but C. in C. Med. reports this as by no means conclusive unless it is claimed by Italians before arrival of survivors in harbour, as conditions were very difficult for successful torpedo attack. (F.O.C. I.B.S. 0022/14).

War Diary

13/5.1940
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

OPERATIONS

Ymuiden - Evacuations.

Refugees will depart from Ymuiden in various ships for the next two or three days. Some defence against air attacks id advisable. Consul-General and Shipping Adviser will try to send wo word of departure. Hope that good ship will be put at disposal. (N.A., Hague, 1700/13)

Following from F.N.L.O., London, to French N.A. at the Hague. Two French destroyers to arrive at dawn 14/5 at Ymuiden to take there General Mittelhauser. Said destroyers may take in personnel to be repatriated Should not be made to call at Hoek on way back unless in case of extreme urgency. (F.N.L.O., to Capt. Hastings 1745/13)

F.O. Official to go to Ymuiden.

Holland Evacuations

I am very reluctant to risk a destroyer with an official from Foreign Office from Harwich to Ymuiden observing Ymuiden has been mined, water is shallow and air attacks are intense. Propose that an M.T.B. be used instead if the journey is of urgent importance. (1917/13)

CYCLONE
SCIROCO — French destroyers, will be proceeding to Ymuiden tonight (F.O.C. Dover 1957/13)

WINDSOR — Bringing 70 Dutch Govt., and officials Belgian and Norwegian legations, expect to arrive Southend 0700 (WINDSOR 2001/13)

VIVIEN — Expect to arrive Sheerness 0730, 89 British, French and Belgian refuges (VIVIEN 2050/13)

WINDSOR — Your 2001 Disembark passengers at Tilbury returning to Sheerness on completion. (C. in C., Nore., 2219/13)

WESSEX — Proceed to Hook for Refugees. VESPER reduce to cruising speed (C. in C., Nore., 2231/13)

MOHAWK — Expect to arrive Tongue L.V. 0700/14 with H.M. Minister and 250 refugees (MOHAWK 2248/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

12.6.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

Submarines

The following redispositions of submarines are to be effected as soon as practicable:-
(A) TALISMAN and THUNDERBOLT to be based at Halifax or St. Johns.
(B) OLYMPUS and three Dutch submarines to be based at Gibraltar for convoy escort duties and occasional patrols.
(C) CLYDE and SEVERN to be based at Gibraltar for operations in the Western Mediterranean and if necessity arises in the Atlantic. They may also be required to carry essential stores to Malta.
(D) THRASHER, OSIRIS and PROTEUS to join 1st Submarine Flotilla at Alexandria, or as ordered by C. in C. Med.
(E) OTUS on completion of refit to proceed to Eastern Mediterranean from Gibraltar.
(F) P.32 and P.33 to join 1st Submarine Flotilla at Malta. (V.C.N.S. 2120B/12 to C. in C. Med. F.O.C.N.A., R.A.3.)

13.6.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Possible sale of Brazilian destroyers.

Am informed that Brazilian Government might be prepared to sell to us the following destroyer. (B.A.S.R. Washington, 1945/13 to Admty.)

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

French Coast

Enemy Battery

T.H.V. PATRICIA whilst picking up "H" light buoy 274° Calais 11 miles Wednesday 12th reports having been fired at from batteries at Calais. Batteries appeared to be low down, four guns in a group at about the junction of the Western Breakwater and the shore and one gun slightly to the left. Guns increased their range to within six cables of PATRICIA but Master suggests that this may have been the limit of their range. (V.A. Dover 1745/14)

My 1745/14. H.M.T. GRIMSBY TOWN while escorting PATRICIA reports new battery being established about half-way up the cliff (=½ miles N.E. of C. Blanc Nez.) (V.A. Dover, 1838/15)

Shipping

Avoiding the Downs

Cancel my 2022/12/2 and 1753/25/4. All vessels found North and South through the Downs to or from ports north of the Thames are to proceed to Southend and should be routed accordingly. Anchoring in the Downs is undesirable and should be avoided unless absolutely necessary. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1204/14)

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

ELIAVORE — Norwegian (1302 tons) was abandoned at Havre 17/6 (D.S. 292)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Surface raider 43° 44'N, 16° 35'W. SUSSEX chased by warships (Scapa W/T 1740/14)

Received 0944 G.M.T. 43° 33'N, 16° 35'W. SUSSEX chased by warship 1635/14. (Portishead Radio 0925/15)

Italian oil tanks

Proposing that air attack should be made on tanks with Italian aviation spirit at Aquila, Trieste. Reported that Pola and Brioni are practically undefended and giving position of oil tanks. (Belgrade 2030/14)

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS (Continued).

Mediterranean.

WARSPITE) WATERHEN) VOYAGER) VENDETTA.)	32°N, 28°E, on passage to Alexandria (D.C.0655/10).
GRAMPUS.	34°N, 24°E on passage to Malta (D.C.0655/10).
CLANRANALD.	Sabotage (16/2/40 at Suez) See Mediterranean volume.
Turkish Cooperation.	Desired to invite Turkish officers to Malta to see general system operating aBritish defended post. Request War Office approval be obtained. G.O.C. Troops, Malta, concurs. (C. in C. Med. 1007/10).
PROTECTOR.	See Narvik Area.
DANUBE.	German shipping firms have been ordered to stop German oil tankers from going down the Danube (Belgrade to Daily Express).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Disposal of French Navy if France makes a separate peace.

There is a possibility that France may consider making a separate peace; in which case the disposal of the French Navy would be a matter of first importance. If you can arrange for French ships in Eastern Mediterranean to be with you at Alexandria it might ensure that these ships are disposed of in accordance with our wishes.
(1st S.L. 1930/14 to C-in-C Med.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Ships in S. Atlantic

Present positions (C-in-C S.A. 1229/14)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships attacked

SWEDRU British, reports on encounter with a U-boat 140 miles W.S.W. of the Scillies at 0500/14. Two Spanish trawlers are reported to have been close to the U-boat. WARWICK and WITCH ordered to search the area.
(A.S.W.D. 283, 14/6)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

15.6.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

DIDO — Admty. 2011/10. Following is intended programme for DIDO: Aden Leave June 14; Mombasa June 20-22; Durban June 26-July 10; Simonstown July 13; Pernambuco July 23; Trinidad July 29; Brooklyn Aug 3.
All dates after arrival Durban subject to time taken making ship seaworthy. My 1058/11 refers. Request necessary arrangements be made for proposed call at Pernambuco and for supplying 1000 tons fuel there.
(C. in C. E.I. 1248Z/15 to Admty.)

19.6.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Madagascar — Admty. 1607/25/3.
(i) Is there yet any intention of Free French rising in Reunion?
(ii) In present unstable relationship between H.M. G. and Vichy Govt. it is desired to emphasize strategic importance of Madagascar. If Vichy turns actively hostile aircraft and submarines in Madagascar would be a most grave threat to our shipping on Mozambique channel route. No suitable force for protecting convoys or other shipping readily available. Madagascar would provide Germany with some most useful bases for her surface and submarine raiders, and diversion of shipping which would be forced upon us would make their task easier. If Japan enters war, use of Madagascar would effectively extend her naval operations in Indian ocean, if supplies could be got there. Blockade of the island would be a difficult matter and expensive in ships. Desirability of obtaining control of island before it becomes too strongly or well stocked.
If this end cannot be attained by political means I suggest all available Free French Forces be directed towards it when Syria and Djibuti have been liquidated or sooner if possible.
(C. in C. E.I., 0728Z/19 to Admty.)

War Diary.

18.6.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operation Aerial.

(Evacuation of British troops and material from Cherbourg and St. Malo).

While operation was successfully completed during the afternoon 18/6, Fighter patrol maintained over the area was the principal factor in this success.

FERNIE and SABRE bombed as the operation was drawing to a conclusion. (MO.11853/40)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Shipping Detained.

North Atlantic.

(a) Orders for all Norwegian Ships to proceed to British ports and detaining of French ? Convoy 16th June at Gibraltar have given very bad impression here. No corresponding orders have been received from French Admiralty.
(b) Norwegian LEKY (MAMMY) sailing from Oran 20th June with urgently required stores announces intention to quit Convoy for British Port. Intend to instruct Master to proceed direct to Oran unless he receives further orders. (BNLO, Casablanca 1727/18, to F.O.C.N.A.).

Mediterranean.

No. 767 F.A.A. Sqdn, from Toulon, request approval send them Gibraltar via Arzen. (B.N.L.O., Bizerta, 2143/18).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

China.

SCHARNHORST, Uobe. ELBE? Yokohama.

Took 476 tons of fresh water during May. (A.2.) Harbour Master stated ship unlikely to move near future.

Further negotiations reported for sale of 2 ships to Japanese. Yokohama, ELBE fitted to take additional 300 tons of oil fuel, loading provisions. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 08262/18).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

Trawlers.

Two Spanish trawlers are reported to have been torpedoed and sunk on 18/6, position not known. (I.C. 0494/40)

WAR DIARY HOME COMMANDS. 19.6.40.
Wednesday.

Operations
French Coast

Polish troops.

Ships to embark 3rd Polish Division. sent St.Nazaire. Other ships for Polish troops being sent to La Pallice - Gironde area for redirection at your discretion. Inform General Sosakowski at Polish H.Q. (C.in C.W.A. 1649/19 to B.N.L.O. Bordeaux).

Operations.
Iceland - Force Profit.

My 1400/19. Orders are being issued for FORCE PROFIT to embark in ARGUS on June 22nd - 23rd. Role of PROFIT FORCE will be

(1) Local reconnaissance, including A/S
(11) Limited army co-operation in event of enemy landing.
(111) Co-operation with Northern Patrol if specially demanded.

(Head of M.2036/19 to C.in C.H.F.).

South Atlantic

French West Africa

Your Tel. 28 June 19th. Do all you can to impress on Governor-General Brazzaville necessity to remain at his post and retain colony for France. Inform him that Governor-General, Afrique Occidentale has issued following proclamation. "In these critical hours through which we arepassing I have the greatest satisfaction in proclaiming that never has the morale of the people of French West Africa been so high. Everywhere the keen desire of the Federation is evident to fight fiercely with all its force to final victory. Close the ranks and remain confident." Signed, Cayla, Governor-General French West Africa and Dakar. I have also ascertained that Governors and Military Authorities in other French West African colonies intend to remain and fight on in every eventuality. I will endeavour to provide naval protection when possible.
(C.in C.S.A., 2317/19 to Consul-General Leopoldville).

WAR DIARY | FOREIGN STATIONS. | 19.6.40 Wednesday

Mediterranean Operations.

Kaso - Scarpanto Straits

Would Admiralty be prepared to issue an announcement that the Kaso and Scarpanto Straits are closed to navigation and that any ship using these passages is liable to be sunk at sight? If this announcement could be made it would be the intention to keep a patrol as far as practicable between Crete and Cape Malea allowing ships to pass only if fully satisfied of their bona fides from clearances. All other ships would be turned back. Measures would also be taken to try and deal with Corinth Canal traffic. In the absence of control of the Dardanelles this appears to be the only way of interrupting Italian supplies from Black Sea and Aegean. There will still be channel East of Rhodes through which neutral traffic can filter but above proposal will impose some considerable delay, at least, on Westbound traffic.

The better alternative is to apply the sink at sight order to the Cape Malea - Crete passage as well but presumably this will be inacceptable for political reasons.
(C. in C. Med., 0231/19.)

French in Algeria.

Personal for C.I.G.S. from Dillon:-

After careful consideration I am persuaded that if French Government accepts German terms whatever they are Algeria, including troops therein, and Navy will continue hostilities. If this happens one thing they have most urgent need of is small arms and machine guns and Lewis guns to arm the many good natives with. No matter how old any number of rifles with a minimum of 500 rounds per arm will be welcome. If they could be sent very soon to Casablanca it would be best.
(No. 3 Mil. Mission, Algiers, 1315/19).

Ships attacked.

ADAMANTIOS GEORGANDIS	Greek, 3443 tons, bound for Rosaro to Cork with grain, torpedoed and sunk 200 miles S.S.W. of Bartry Bay 49.35 N., 11.15 W. Not in Convoy (V.C.N.S. 296, 26/6) (I.C. 0493/40).
ALTAIR	Norwegian, torpedoed and sunk in 49.36 N., 11.32 W., 213° Fastnet 125'. (I.C.0493/40).
BRITISH MONARCH	British 5661 tons, in Convoy HG 3 Y, presumed lost. Master of ANDALUSIAN reported he had seen the ship sink, and no news of her received since the convoy was attacked a.m. 19/6 by enemy submarine (D.S. 295, 26/6).
BARON LOUDOUN	Torpedoed 0026/19 and sank 45° 0'N 11° 21' W. (Attacks on Merchant ships by enemy submarines.)
FLORIAN chased.	At 0037/19, SCARBOROUGH reported that a ship in an H.G.F. convoy had been torpedoed about 180 miles N.W. of Cape Finisterre, and that SCARBOROUGH was hunting. At 0255 it was reported that s.s. FLORMAN (?FLORIAN) in the same convoy had been chased by a U-boat and that the convoy had scattered. Three corvettes were sent to help SCARBOROUGH. (A/S.W.D., 288, 19/6).
Submarines reported.	Following received from S/S PATELIA. While in convoy in position 150 degrees Sandra light 15 miles at 2100 June 19 dense patch of fog descended and a submarine observed 20 feet ahead Conning Tower only visible. Submarine course 040 degrees and speed estimated 6 knots. Appeared to have come from centre of convoy made no signal and PATELIA endeavoured unsuccessfully to ram. Actually observed by Captain and 3 other officers. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1140/20). Following from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. "Report AMACOTA on arrival Boston reports sighted U Boat in position 044° 04' North 064° 02' West at 0230 18th June. U Boat was motionless and 250 feet long. A pale green light was seen at one end." AMACOTA is auxiliary coasting schooner. (C. in C.A.W.I., 1953/19, to Admiralty).
Submarines attacked. 1915	A/S trawler VICTRIX attacked contact in 54° 45'. 25" N., 5° 30' 50" W. at 1915. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2301/19.).

War Diary.

20.6.40.
Thursday.

ATTITUDE OF FRENCH.

Morocco. Morale appears to be stiffening and it seems likely that French Resident General will fight on, and if forced to stop, will send A/C to Sudan.

Tunis. Attitude of Resident General satisfactory. He abhors peace overture and is convinced hostilities will continue in N. Africa under the French Government. But he rules out possibility of local separatist movement.

Jibuti. Governor states that if instructed by French Government to surrender Jibuti he would do so. But G.O.C. declares he would forcibly prevent Governor from doing so and would continue to fight under British orders.

French Equatorial Africa. Would not accept capitulation of Colonial Troops. Would ask for British protection of colony or would leave for Nigeria, Sudan, or Kenya with 9/10 ths of Troops and population (F.O. Telegram 0445/20 to H.M. Reps.)

French Council of Ministers have decided that, on approach of enemy to Bordeaux, President of Republic, Presidents of 2 Houses of Parliament, and 3 or 4 Ministers will proceed overseas to carry on Government. It is possible General Weygand will go too. (F.O. Telegram 0555/20 to H.M. Reps.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

My 1110/17. This instruction no longer applies to French Colonial ports outside Mediterranean. (D.T.D. 1134/20 to A.I.G. 47).

AEGEUS. Greek, with timber for Alexandria, now at Algiers. French military authorities willing to buy cargo, but AEGEUS ordered by Admiralty to England. Requesting instructions (Nos.3. (Dillon) Military Mission, Algiers, 1355/20).

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

INNISULVA.	British motor ship	(264 tons)	Reported useless and abandoned at Paris 20/6. (D.S. 292)
SWALLOW.	- do -	(209 ")	

War Diary

13.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

OPERATIONS

Helder - Texel - Zuider Zee

VALOROUS

Intend authorising Knock Deep 2230 today Monday expected to arrive Sheerness 0730 14th May. would like to see Staff Officer if possible to amplify my signal timed 1601. Suggestion of bombing Germans at Zuider Zee. (VALOROUS, 1831/13)

Dutch Admiral Jolles informs me that Germans are massed at Friesland end of Zuider Zee dyke, Dutch fort is holding out strongly at present. No ship with draught over 8 ft. can approach within 18,000 yards to bombard Germans and Admiral suggests bombers would be effective. Admiral says he could supply petrol if British made air station south of Wieringen. Consider only need for ship at Helder is liaison. (VALOROUS, 1601/13)

Dutch Coast

Bombardment of Aerodrome.

Your 1953/12, bombardment of car park used as aerodrome south of Rotterdam This bombardment is not racticable. (Capt. D.I., 1053/13) (C. in C., Nore., 1435/13)

ATTITUDE OF FRENCH

19.6.40
Wednesday

Last evacuee ship to Casablanca had very cold reception from French authorities and residents, believed due to propaganda attributing French collapse to our failure to support adequately. This strengthens my 1905/18 recommending reinforcement of North Africa by British troops. If North Africa is to be held it seems essential to strengthen both numbers and morale.
(Governor Gibraltar 2300/19 to War Office).

Tangier zone now completely under Spanish control including Gestapo police methods. Frequent rumours they will soon invade French Morocco, known to be weakly held. I recommend therefore a re-inforcement of French Morocco to stiffen defence, and also as possible threat to occupy Spanish Morocco and Canary Islands in answer to Italy's threat to occupy Balearics or Spain's entry into war.
(Governor Gibraltar 2300/19 to War Office).

Ref. my 1906/19. Order by Darlan for Fleets to report North African or British ports whichever nearest is expected to be carried out. Am doubtful of attitude of Nogues owing to political ties and his badly equipped forces. I formed impression Nogues is a tired man. Feelings of subordinate commanders reported favourable to us. My suggestion of immediately military assistance would not doubt strongly influence his decision.
(Governor Gibraltar 2345/19 to War Office.).

War Diary. 20.6.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

OTTERPOOL. Master of s.s. FELLSIDE, arrived Weymouth a.m. to-day, reports that while in unescorted convoy, s.s. OTTERPOOL was sunk by s/m in position 48.26' N., 8.11' W., at 2040/20. No survivors.S.s . FELLSIDE opened fire on submarine and considers hits were registered. (F.O.I.C.? Portland, 1318/24).

HILDA. Finnish (1144 tons) torpedoed 20/6 about 90 miles N. of Castro Urgiates on N. Coast of Spain. 11 Survivors landed.

ANDALUSIAN. Reported torpedoed 20/6. Incorrect. Ship arrived safely.

EMPIRE CONVEYOR (Ex German GLORIA) Torpoedoed 1045 and sunk 1200 in 56° 16' N. 8° 10' W. Captain and 2 missing, 2 slightly injured. (1D Form S A.)

S/M's reported.

My 1105. U-boat probably homeward bound passing 30 miles north of Muckle Flugga. BUTTERMERE, WINDERMERE also ordered to search. (R.A.D. H.F. 1208/20)

War Diary

13.5.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Dutch Queen — Taken from Hook to Brestens (on mainland opposite Flushing) at her request by HEREWARD escorted by VERSATILE who has been ordered to return to Hook (Capt. D.16 Rec. 1244/13, 1241/13).

Submarines — Orders to TRUANT, TRIDENT, TRITON and ORZEL (V.A.S., 2134/13).

Operations

C.S.2 & BIRMINGHAM

Revert to 1 hours' notice for steam (C. in C., Nore, 1517/12 to C.S.2.)

Dutch Coast

PERSEUS — Sailed Ymuiden 0400 8 knots (VIMY 0415/13). My 0400 (re ship aground in side outer harbour at Ymuiden) refers to unknown M.V. Am escorting PERSEUS (VIMY 0802/13).

WINDSOR — Am on my own patrolling coast south of Ymuiden (WINDSOR 0500/13).

WALPOLE — VIMY 0400, can you help him without endangering yourself (C. in C., Nore, 0649/13 to WALPOLE).

VIMY — Cancel my 0649 if VIMY is safe (C. in C., Nore 0753/13 to WALPOLE).

Your 0651 not mined. 3 ships have safely passed entrance since explosion was heard. (VIMY 0710/13 to C. in C., Nore).

No sign of troops landing between Scheveningen and Zandvoort during dark hours. (MOHAWK, 0830/13).

War Diary.

216.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Admiralty 1558/21 (personal distribution) WANDERER and WITHERINGTON detailed. (C. in C.W.A., 2006/21) My 2146/21 WINCHESTER is to be employed on duty mentioned in my 1558/21. (D.O.D. (H) 2204/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenode).

Iceland.

R.M.F.U. — Royal Marine Fortress Unit required for mounting Army defence equipments in Iceland. Will be attached to Army who will be responsible for administration, etc. Anticipated will be required to embark in 9 days' time and will be required for at least 4 weeks from time of arrival in Iceland. (D. of L.D. to C.in C.Portsmouth 2049/21).

Air.

British Air Activity.

French Coast. — Attack on new gun battery Cap Blanc Nez 50° 54' 40" N., 01° 44' 00/ E. at 1440. 4 direct hits, several near misses. A/C H/801 shot down in sea by A/A fire. Guns of target thought to be 4-7" (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1715/21).

Texel. — Coastal search of Texel and attacks on M.V's and aerodrome by 206 and 826 Sqdns. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1945/21, 2135/21).

Enemy Air Acitivity.

DENNIS ROSE. — Bombed 2345/21. No casualties or damage at 20 C. Buoy. (D. Form AA).

Enemy Intelligence.

One Northbound 3000 Ton M/V. flying Danish colours sunk at 1810/21 by H.44 at 55° 18' N. 4° 28' E. (V.A.S. 1131/27).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

ALFA. — Danish 1300 tons sunk near Dutch coast after an explosion. Had been in a Dutch harbour since 9/4, the day of invasion of Denmark, and was on her way home. Danish legation at Berlin reports all but 2 of the crew rescued. (Kalundborg Radio 1130/27/6, quoting statement of J. Lauritzen, Ltd.)

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Stavanger

Attack on aerodrome

Night 17/18 by 11 Wellingtons. Target not located 2245/17 58° 20'N, 6° 10'E convoy of 4 ships believed to be destroyers steaming north line astern close to shore (H.Q. B.C. 0320/18) 58° 10'N, 5° 10'E. 2210 vessel like aircraft-carrier steaming 25° 20 knots unaccompanied (H.Q. B.C. 0220/18) Concrete runway hit. 1 Wellington missing. (C.O.S.(40) 301).

War Diary.

21.6.40.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Ships attacked.

BERENICE. Dutch 1177 tons torpedoed in Bay of Biscay 47° 10' N. 30° 35' W. at 1715/21. Ship sank in about 2 minutes. Crew of 25 and 22 refugee passenger - 21 passengers 118 crew missing (interview with 3rd Engineer, Shipping Casuality Section, Trade Division 26/6/40).

SARMATIA. Finnish, 2417 tons, torpedoed and sunk off Finisterre. Survivors landed at Vigo. (D.S. 297).

War Diary

18.4.40.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Bergen

50-60 M.V's in Bergen but no warships. No a/c at seaplane base, some A/A fire (Donibristle Rec. 0013/19).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

A/C — Daily patrols along coast of Bizerta and Nemours; and French bombers attacked Italian s/m's, probably successfully, off W. coast of Sardinia 21/22 June.

BRITANNIC — Attacked at 1020/22 by enemy a/c off Sardinia. No damage. (B.N.L.O. Algiers, 1756/22 to D.N.I.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CONTE VERDE
Italian — Reported ordered to be fitted as A.M.C. (Capt. Singapore 0511Z/22 to Adty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING

Ships attacked

NEION — Greek, 5154 tons, reported sunk by s/m at 1330/22, about 40 miles W. of Belle Isle, off the coast of Morbihan, Brittany. (D.S. 296 27/6) (I.C. 0494/40 gives time as 0130/22, and position 47° 9'N, 4° 17'W, 259° Belle Isle 47')

RANDSFJORD — Norwegian, 2143 tons, in homeward bound convoy from Halifax to Liverpool, with general cargo including 3 aeroplanes, torpedoed and sunk 70'S.S.E. of Queenstown 50:45N, 7.45W at 0100/22 by a U-boat believed Italian. 29 survivors landed at Glasgow. (V.C.N.S. 296, 26/6) (I.C. 0493/40)

SAN FERNANDO — British tanker, 8335 tons, in homeward bound convoy from Halifax, torpedoed and sunk about 50 miles S.S.W. of Cape Clear. (V.C.N.S. 296, 26/6)

WINDSORWOOD — British (5395 tons) in an outward bound convoy, reported sunk 370 miles W.S.W. Land's End. S.S. AINDERBY+ picked up entire crew (D.S. 297)

SARANAC (12049 tons))
ACAVUS (8010 tons) Tanker) — Believed torpedoed at same time and place as WINDSORWOOD (D.S. 297)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

22.6.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Action to be taken in event of war with Vichy France.

In the event of war or of general hostilities with Vichy France your aim should be to prevent hostilities spreading to the China Station and so far as possible to maintain the status quo.

2. But necessary action must be taken to safeguard British and Allied shipping and also in the event of Indo-China becoming hostile to seize as many French ships as possible. Accordingly in the event of war or general hostilities with Vichy you should keep all British and Allied shipping away from Indo-China ports and take any further measures necessary for its safety until it is certain that Decoux does not intend to interfere with such shipping.

You have discretion to take any or all of the following measures when they appear justified as a result of your information regarding the attitude of Decoux:

(a) So far as possible prevent ships of any nationality except Japanese from proceeding to Indo-China.

(b) Detain French ships in British ports by administrative delays as well as all other ships bound for Indo-China with the exception of Japanese.

(c) Place armed guards on all French ships in British ports and intercept French ships on the high seas.

Presumably you will consult with N.E.I. Naval C. in C. as necessary.

3. You will be kept informed of any military or political developements calculated to affect the attitude of Decoux.

4. You should now ensure as far as possible that there is not at any given time a greater number of British and Allied ships in or near Indo-China ports than French ships in or near British ports.

5. Please inform Governor, Straits Settlements and repeat by Air Mail to Govt. of India.

(Admty. 2034B/22 to C. in C. China)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

23.6.1941.
Monday

Shipping -Action in event of War with Vichy France.

In the event of war with Vichy France:-
(1) All British and Allied shipping in the vicinity of Vichy French ports should be re-routed as necessary when the emergency arises.
(2) All ex-French ships requisitioned or seized in Prize by H.M.G. if manned by Free French crews, and all Free French ships:-
(a) If in British ports should be detained until you are satisfied of the continued loyalty of the crews.
(b) If at sea and sailing independently will be recalled to British ports by wireless and should be ordered in if met. The names and details of voyages of these vessels will be promulgated as necessary.
(c) If in convoy should proceed with the convoy.
(d) If found making for a Vichy French port should be sent into British port under armed guard.
In cases (a) and (b) you should explain that these measures are taken for their own safety until the naval situation created by the outbreak of hostilities has been clarified.
(3) You may, however, use your discretion to permit such vessels, if bound for ports in Free French Colonies to proceed there unless a British port is nearer and provided you are satisfied with the position of the Colonies concerned. Similar discretion may be used as regards other British, British controlled and Allied ships bound to Free French Colonies.
(4) Names of ships permitted to proceed should be reported at once.
(Admty. 1301B/23 to all C's in C., H. & F. etc.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

SURCOUF

Your 1301B/23. Doubtful of her loyalty in event of war with Vichy.
SURCOUF will therefore not be sailed in accordance with my 1910Q/22 without express from Admiralty. She might well be sent United States to refit now. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1841Q/23)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

23.6.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Co-operation with Russia

Russian request for Information.

Admiral Isakov, Chief of Naval Staff sent for me today and said that pending arrival here of any British Mission he would like an answer as soon as possible to following:-
1. What line of geographical division could be arranged between Soviet and British naval forces operating in northern theatre off Norway and Murmansk coasts in order to prevent overlapping.
2. What naval action can British take in this northern theatre.
3. What action can we take to prevent entry of enemy naval forces into Black Sea from Mediterranean.
The Admiral stated he was willing and anxious for complete naval co-operation and for exchange of every kind of information.
According to Soviet information one Pocket Battleship is at Copenhagan.
(N.A. Moscow, 1800/23.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

VAN KINSBERGEN

Your 10010/14 May. Shortage of Cruisers on your station is fully appreciated, but Dutch wish VAN KINSBERGEN to return to U.K; Please arrange.
3. Owing to the general shortage of Cruisers it will not at present be possible to replace VAN KINSBERGEN by another Cruiser.
(D.O.D. (F)(164) 1546B/23 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

24.6.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Co-operation with Russia

Russian request for Information.

Your 1300/23.
A. Experience shows that best way of preventing German units reinforcing Far North is by interception well to the southward within reach of our naval and air bases in U.K. It is our intention to do all in power in this direction. LUTZOW was recently intercepted and torpedoed by such action. A line of demarcation of 15° E. is therefore proposed.
B. If Turks carry out obligations under Art.19 of Montreux Convention no enemy forces should be permitted to enter Straits. Submarine patrols are maintained in channels in Aegean and off Dardenelles and our action is limited to this.
C. Full appreciation will be brought by Admiral Miles of Naval Mission.
D. Fully concur in proposals for co-operation and exchange of information which will be implemented by British Naval Mission.
(1st S.L. 2145B/24 to N.A. Moscow)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

French India.

1301/23. Grateful for assurance that Govt. India (a) is satisfied that French India is likely to remain loyal to allied cause. (b) will immediately inform me of any indication that loyalty is weakening. (C. in C. E.I. 0648Z/24 to F.O.C.R.I.N

25.6.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Offer of Brazilian Destroyers.

Your 1945/13. We should be glad to have as many ACRE class as possible and we should also be interested in COMOCIN class minelayer/minesweepers. (Controller, 1112B/25 to B.A.S.R. Washington)

War Diary

24.6.1940.
Monday.

DISPOSAL OF FRENCH FLEET

Mediterranean

C. in C., Med. 1059/24. The following para was not included in the War Diary.

"2. It is of course my intention that French ships shall not leave Alexandria."

War Diary

27.6.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.
Enemy reported to be buying all available private small vessels Motors in Norway. A.Z.
(Acting-Consul Malmo 1221/27 to D.N.I.)

Calais

P.D.U. Sortie shows some activity in Calais Gare Maritime but no shipping present.
(P.D.U.I. 1857/27 to N.I.D.)

War Diary

22.6.40.
Saturday

FRENCH FLEET

Admiral West and staff with destroyer LE HARDI arrived here and MAMELUCK and battleship French Battleship JEAN BART arrived Casablanca.

Message received en route gave succession of command after Darlan if necessary as De Laborde, Esteva, Abrial, Gensoul, ordered navy to continue fighting unless orders are cancelled by legal French Government and states that on no account must any ship fall into the hands of the enemy.

Senior officers appear almost resigned about the future of the fleet and quite expect may have to be sunk in consequence. Junior officers show considerable feeling against possibility which is described as treason. Two main arguments are (a) French families are in the power of the enemy and hands of officers and men are therefore tied (b) Present Government knows best and orders must be obeyed whatever they are.

Request that liaison officers may be kept up to date with progress of negotiations (such knowledge lends authority) and prior information as to any British move which may be used to influence French naval officers. (B.N.L.O. Brest at Casablanca 2315/22 to A.C.W.A. & Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

Air

EMMA PLEIN — Dutch, 5435 tons. Attacked by a/c at 0045/22 in 53° 4'N, 1° 34'E. In convoy. No damage or casualties. (I.D. Form A.A.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Algiers — In port, cruisers ADMIRAL, MARQUIS, MARSEILLAISE, JEAN DE VIENNE, LA GALLISSONIERE.

Patrol off Minorca — Destroyers INDOMITABLE, TRIUMPHANT

Convoys — Normal between Oran and Gibraltar, and special between Oran and S. France. Special operations between Algiers and S. France to withdraw troops and stores.

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

26.6.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

SURCOUF — Your 1841Q/23. Active service at sea is the best remedy.
Unless you have very good reasons to the contrary consider that it would be undesirable either to detach SURCOUF in harbour or to send her to U.S. to refit now.
(V.C.N.S. 0008B/26 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

27.6.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Gibraltar Evacuation. — Ref. M.O. 4.71039 of 8/6.
War Cabinet agree that once a decision to close the Dockyard has been taken by them or Defence Committee you are empowered if the emergency arises:
(a) To decide on questions relating to evacuation of non-essential personnel from Gibraltar, and such civilians from Portugal, Spain and Tangier as may reach Gibraltar.
(b) To deal direct on the matter with H.M's diplomatic and Consular Representatives in Lisbon, Madrid and Tangier.
(W.O. 2100/27 to Govr. Gib.)

Dd

SECRET. File A

Appreciation of damage to Naval Establishments by enemy action for week-ending noon of 28.9.40.

During the week under review, damage sustained to Admiralty property has generally been of a minor character except at Gibraltar where the electric generating plant was seriously affected.

Devonport and Portland were attacked on one occasion with resulting slight damage, that at the former being one oil main burst and a railway track and jetty damaged. The damage at Portland was confined to the Chart Depot, but interference was caused by the cutting of the water supply main into the Yard.

The W/T Station at Flowerdown and the F.A.A. Establishment at Worthy Down were also attacked on the same day, four married quarters at the former suffering severe damage, whereas at the latter a water main only was damaged. No damage resulted from a light raid on Milford Mine Depot.

Damage to Admiralty establishments in the London area was confined to trifling damage to a W.R.N.S. Hostel and to windows, skylights, water and gas mains at Deptford.

So far as Establishments abroad are concerned, two raids were reported on Malta causing some damage to Government property and two aircraft on the ground. Haifa was again attacked, it being reported that damage to plant was sustained but not sufficiently serious to interfere with production.

The raids on Gibraltar caused damage to the Electric Generating Station which affected power and lighting systems, although 3/5ths of the former were quickly restored. Several buildings were damaged and the output of work has been seriously reduced. Seven casualties in Dockyard, slightly hurt.

Air raid warnings continue to cause lost time; for instance 12,500 man hours were lost at Portsmouth but efforts are being made to reduce these losses by special warning systems.

(Signed) F.A. Whitaker.

CIVIL ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF.

Admiralty,
Bath.
30th September, 1940.

Circulated by M. Branch to:-

1st Lord.	P.A.S. (F).	D. of L.D.	D.N.O. (London)
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Secretary.	" " L.	A.G.R.M.	D. of V. (London)
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P.A.S. (S).	C.S.F. (L).	D.N.C. (Bath)	D. of C. (London)
	D.P.D.	E. in C. (London)	D. of C. (Bath)
	D. of P.	E. in C. (Bath)	C.E. in C.
		D.E.E. (London)	D.S.R.
		D.E.E. (Bath)	

VT.

NOTE ON THE IMMOBILISATION OF PORTS.

The immobilisation of Ports consists of measures such as sinking emergency blockships, observation mines, torpedo tubes, immobilising cranes, etc. Every port varies but in every port the closest liaison has to be maintained with Military authorities who are in some ports responsible for putting the scheme into operation.

The following broad review of the situation therefore does include steps which are the responsibility of different authorities. No attempt is made to review the position of beaches as this is an entirely military commitment.

At the end of May orders were issued to the Flag Officers concerned to prepare schemes for immobilising ports between Aberdeen and Swanage. The schemes for these ports are well advanced and except for some ports where the blockships and the observation mines are not ready it may be said that if the order to immobilise is given the schemes will be fully carried out.

In the middle of June orders were given to prepare schemes for immobilisation of certain ports in Northern Ireland and these are proceeding satisfactorily.

In the middle of June also orders were given to prepare schemes for ports from Swanage to Lands End. These schemes are also proceeding satisfactorily.

Finally at the end of June orders were given to prepare schemes for immobilisation for ports from Lands End to Holyhead.

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries etc. received for Jan: 1940.

C. in C., China, War Diary, 1st to 31st Jan. (T.S.D.,4092/40)

Interception of ASAMA MARU, confirmed no Russian Submarines in Far East handed over to Germans. Interception of SELENGA.

C. in C., Home Fleet, Dispatch (M.08457/40).

Employment of heavy ships, cruisers, and destroyers during January.

Norwegian convoys to be run on 4 day instead of 6 day or 8 day cycle owing to increasing use by neutrals. Decided 24/1, put into force 3/2. 12th D.F. added to Home Fleet to provide necessary additional escorts.

Loss of SEAHORSE, UNDINE, STARFISH.

Northern Patrol during January.

BAHIA BLANCA sunk 10/1 through running into ice.

Last of the "D" class cruisers left the Northern Patrol 27/1.

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries etc. received for Jan: 1940.

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War Diaries, R of P etc., received for February 1940.

East Indies, War Diary

From outbreak of war to end of February 1940.

Escort for Convoy U.S. 2.

Reduction and reorganisation of forces on E.I. Station 21/2.

Establishment of Route Bases between Colombo and Cape for Flying boats.

Appendices. These number 36, and deal with various matters of which the more important are Particulars of Convoys Escorted; Movements of Troopships etc., (not in convoy); Advanced Bases; Searched Channels and Mine Sweeping; Liaison with the French and R.A.F; Aden, Ceylon, India, and Persian Gulf Areas; 8th S/M Flotilla; Intelligence and Security; Communications; Enemy Exports Control; Control of Merchant Shipping; Fuelling arrangements.

N.A. Santiago — War Despatch No 2. 15/1- 29/2/40. Arica to be closed at end of February Intelligence Service in Punta Arenas. Enemy subjects in Japanese ships. N.D.D. 2287/40.

R.A. Malaya — War Diary, Jan & Feb. 1940. T.S.D. 5236/40.

Hong Kong — War Diary for Feb. 1940. (T.S.D. 4636/40)

3/2 Controlled minefield in East Larrma Channel became operative.

28/2 Unknown cable picked up off Tamkan Head.

Contains Table of ships dealt with from Sept. 1939- Feb. 1940 inclusive, showing decline of 30% in British and increase of 50% in Norwegian ships.

Suez Canal Area — War Diary for Feb. 1940. (T.S.D. 4737/40)

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries, etc., received for

March 1940

V.A. Dover, War Diary, 16/3 to 31/3 (T.S.D. 4090/40.)

	Casualties from mines on route to Belgian and Dutch ports. Further work carried out on the Loops. S.S. BARNHILL bombed and set on fire 20/3. Routine A/S patrols, escorting of convoys to and from the Downs, and cross- Channel B.E.F. leave boats.
Northern Patrol	R of P., 15/3 to 31/3/40. M09212/40.
Persian Gulf Division	War Diary March 1940. T.S.D. 4861/40.
N.O.I.C. Aberdeen	War Diary. 1/3-14/3/40. T.S.D. 4035/40. Commissioning and fitting out of trawlers, and -first air raid over Aberdeen. (7/3)
PROTEUS	R. of P., off Vladivostock 8/3-14/3 (M.010361/ 40) Examination of Kitov for reported German submarine base.
N.A. Buenos Aires	War Despatch No 10. 15/3/40. N.I.D. 02034/40.
V.A.C. 2 C.S.	War Diary 16/3-31/3 T.S.D., 4125/40. Ordered to Humber to be based there for protection of East Coast, but subsequently to remain with C. in C., H.F. for the present.
KANIMBLA	(China Station) R. of P., 23/2- 27/3/40. (M 01358/40) Interception of YOSYU MARU 8/3 and PANAMA MARU 9/3. Patrol line moved 9/3. Interception of V. MAYAKOVSKY 15/3.
Suez Canal Area	War Diary, March 1940. (T.S.D. 4737/40)

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries Etc. for April 1940.

SNO Simonstown.	War Diary April 1940 (T.S.D.5036/40) indexed chronologically under dates.
R.A.South American Division	War Diary April 1940 (T.S.D.5286/40) Chief interest is his fuelling plans.
KIMBERLEY	R. of P. 7/4 - 17/4. operations off Norway Reported of 2nd battle of Narvik. M.O. 11186/40.
AMAZON	R. of P. 24/4 - 1/5/40. M.O.10552/40
C.in C. South Atlantic	War Diary for April 1940. T.S.D.5061/40
Suez Canal Area.	War Diary for April 1940 (T.S.D.4737/40).
C.-in-C. A. & W.I.	War Diary for April 1940. (T.S.D.4261/40).
Fr. S/m ORPHEE	Patrol Report 20/4-23/4/40. (M.O.8394/40.)

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries Etc. for April 1940.

SNO Simonstown.	War Diary April 1940 (T.S.D.5036/40) indexed chronologically under dates.
R.A.South American Division	ar Diary April 1940 (T.S.D.5256/40) Chief interest is his fuelling plans.
KIMBERLEY	R. of P. 7/4 - 17/4, operations off Norway Reported of 2nd battle of Narvik. M.O. 11186/40.
AMAZON	R. of P. 24/4 - 1/5/40. M.O.10552/40
C.in C. South Atlantic	War Diary for April 1940. T.S.D.5061/40
Suez Canal Area,	War Diary for April 1940 (T.S.D.4737/40).
C.-in-C. A. & W.I.	War Diary for April 1940. (T.S.D.4861/40).
Fr. S/m ORPHEE	Patrol Report 20/4-23/4/40. (M.O.8394/40.)

MOST SECRET

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc. Received for June 1940

F.A.A. "Bishops Force" L. of P. (M012068/40)

A Unit of Norwegian Expeditionary Force, operating 701 A.B.R. Squadron (6 Walrus)

Formed 6/5/40 onwards. Ceased operations 7/6

R.A.S.A.D. War Diary 1-30 June 1940 (T.S.D. 5288/40)

1/6 HAWKINS patrolling Plate area

3/6 Entered Montevideo

4/6 Left for Patrol

5/6 Fuelled from OLYNTHUS in San Boronbon Bay. Then to patrol Plate Approached.

7/6 To patrol off Cape Santa Maria to intercept any Italian Ships if Italy should declare war.

20/7 Left Plate area. Off Punta Negra etc.

27/6 Entered Rio de Janeiro. ALCANTAR left the Cape for Rio de Janeiro area on completion of refit.

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries etc., for June 1940 (contd.)

SANDWICH	R. of P. 17-23/6/40 (Convoy H.X. 49)	M. 013499/40.
FOWEY	R. of P. 10-23/6/40 (Convoy H.X. 47)	
Convoy H.X.47.	R. of P. 2/6-16/6/40. (M.012098/40).	
F.O.I.C. Tyne Area.	War Diary 1/6-15/6/40 (T.S.D.5187/40).	
C.in C. Mediterranean.	War Diary 10/6-13/6/40 (T.S.D.4736/40).	
	Dispositions of Fleet in Italian Ports. Declaration of War. Sinking of CALYPSO.	
S.S. BLACKHEATH	R. of P. 7/6-13/6/40. (M.012693/40).	
N.O.I.C. Tees and Hartlepool.	War Diary 15/6-30/6/40 (T.S.D.5163/40).	
B.N.L.O. Cherbourg.	R. of P. 12/6-17/6/40 (M.017485/40)	
V.A.C. B.C.S.	R.P. 5/6-9/6/40. (M.012555/40)	
C.in C. W.A.	Operation Aerial R. of P. 15/6-18/6/40 (M. 012978/40).	
N.O.I.C. Blyth.	War Diary 15-30/6/40. (T.S.D.4338/40).	
C.O. ASCANIA.	R. of P. of Convoy BHX 47.(M.012893/40).	
C.in C. Nore.	War Diary 1/6. 15/6/40. Dunkirk, Shortage of Destroyers, B.S. Mine-laying, Mounting of Naval guns at E. Coast ports.	T.S.D. 4813/40.
ARK ROYAL.	R. of P. Operation Alphabet 3/6-13/6/40 (M. 012911/40).	
CLYDE.	Report of Patrol P.O. 2 M. from 4/6 to 24/6. (M. 012 987/40). Includes attack on German capital ship 20/6.	
Operation Valentine	Report on Operation Valentine (R.M. Force at the Faroes) by Lt. Col. T.B.W. Sandall, R.M. Force sailed in SUFFOLK, 12/4, arrived Faroes 13/4. Was relieved by a Battalion of Lovat Scouts 27/5 and embarked in ULSTER PRINCE for passage to England. (M.014695/40, covering A.G., R.M., No. F.P.1948).	
Operation J.D.	Appendix II, to be added to Portsmouth No. 0221/79 of 29.6.40, Operation J.D. (Identification Marks). (M. 013707/40) Operation J.D. interception of enemy landing forces. General Instructions for conduct of Auxiliary Patrol in the	

/Portsmouth Command...

MOST SECRET.

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc. for June 1940.

Operation J.D.	Portsmouth Command. (M.012674/40).
Operation X.D.	Party "O", Brest, Report of Comdr. G. Congreve, R.N. dated 21/6/40. (M.012356/40).
Iceland.	Report of Situation and Proceedings 2/6 - 15/6. Many reports of enemy landing, but all proved groundless. (M. 012206/40).
H.M.C.S. FRASER.	R. of P., 3/6 - 25/6, when ship lost after collision with CALCUTTA.
F.O.I.C. Tyne.	War Diary 16/6 - 30/6. Air Raids, 22/6, shore damage; 46/6, magnetic minelaying; delays from enemy mining 22/6 - 29/6, but on no occasion traffic held up for more than one day. (T.S.D. 5188/40).
Mediterranean Fleet.	Report of Movements and other related action between 10/6 and 14/6 (M.012348 /40). Initial cruise after entry of Italy into war. Italian ideas on air reconnaissance at sea not very developed. Most serious obstacle in bringing the enemy to action is weakness of our air reconnaissance. Limitations of EAGLE. Need for a base in Greek Islands, preferably Suda Bay. Loss of CALYPSO, doubt it was due to Submarine action. (C.in C. Med).
Convoy H.X. 48.	R. of P., C.O. RANPURA, 26/6/40. (M. 014561).
V.A.C. 1 C.S.	War Diary. 1 - 15/6. (T.S.D. 4389/40) Evacuation of Norway, embarkation of King and Ministers in DEVONSHIRE. At 1730/8, interception of a barely readable signal from GLORIOUS to V.A.A. timed 1640 which subsequent events proved probably amplying report of two pocket battleships. Meeting of Norwegian Cabinet in Gun Room of DEVONSHIRE at 1700/9. Return to Clyde. DEVONSHIRE had had steam on main engines for 34 consecutive days and men no leave for some two months. Night leave to each watch approved.
V.A.C. 1 C.S.	War Diary, 16/6 - 30/6. (T.S.D.4390/40) Passage of DEVONSHIRE to Halifax, and shadowing of EMILE BERTIN. SUSSEX and NEWCASTLE remained Scapa. Signals exchanged with EMILE BERTIN, 21/6.
N.O.I.C., Aberdeen.	War Diary, 15/6 - 30/6. (T.S.D. 4164/4 Air raids, 27/6 and 30/6.

/ VIVIEN. .....

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries, etc. for June 1940.(Continued)

VIVIEN.	Report of E-Boat attack on VIVIEN and Convoy F.N.92 on night of 9/6-10/6. 32 ships in convoy stretching for about 6 miles. VIVIEN sole escort. C.O., Lt. Com. W.D.G. Weir, commended for able way he handled convoy and countered attack. No ships sunk or damaged. (M. 011665/40).
N.C.S.O. Methil.	War Diary, period ending 15/6. (T.S.D. 4762/40). Seizure of Italian Ships, immobilisation plans.
HURRICANE.	R. of P. 25/6-30/6. (M. 014108/40).
Northern Patrol.	R. of P., 15/6-30/6. (M. 014809/40). Sinking of ANDANIA, first A.M.C. to be attacked successfully by U/B while on patrol, 15/6. For first time since Northern Patrol was instituted, no ship was intercepted during the whole period. Usual number of fishing vessels sighted and examined. Chances of preventing a single ship from reaching Iceland small unless whole of N.P. diverted from its main object and redisposed westward of Iceland. Average number of ships on patrol per day 11.8.
Dutch Torpedo Boats.	Employment of. (O.D. 1200/40). Approved by A.C.N.S.(H) 15/6 to employ Z. 5, 6, 7 and 8 as proposed by V.A.(S) - based on Dundee in company with Dutch Submarines. Signals appertaining. - V.A.S., 2026/12/6, 2027/12/6, 2028/12/6 D.O.D.(H) 1348/16/6, S.N.N.O.P., Portsmouth 1535/16/6.
C.in C. Rosyth.	War Diary 16/6-30/6. (T.S.D. 4989/40). Swedish destroyers released 26/6. Daily notes arranged under Weather, Convoys, Northern Patrol and A.M.C's, Submarines, Movements, Aircraft, Enemy Intelligence and Miscellaneous.
Northern Patrol.	R. of P. 1/6-14/6. (M.013837/40). CARINTHIA torpedoed and sunk 6/6, SCOTSTOUN ditto 13/6. Results of patrol showed complete absence of east and westbound traffic.
C.in C. W.A.	War Diary 1/6 - 15/6. (T.S.D. 5213/40). Chiefly U/Boat Campaign.
C.in C. Nore.	War Diary 16/6 - 30/6. (T.S.D. 4814/40) Collapse of France. Preparations against invasion. Enemy Air Activity. British B.S. Minelaying Operations.
R.A., 18 C.S.	R. of P. 16/6 - 30/6 (M.013175/40). At Scapa. Nothing of interest.
C.in C. S.A.	Report on Visit to Dakar and shadowing of RICHELIEU etc. No.930/018, 4/7/40. (M.014020/40).

/ HAVANT .....

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries, etc., for June, 1940 (Contd.

HAVANT.	R. of action off Dunkirk and loss of ship. (M.010879/40) Left Dover for Bray at 1815/29/5. Left Dunkirk 1/6 for Dover with about 500 men, many wounded. At 0906 hit by two bombs in engine room which passed through the starboard side. Just afterwards, large bomb fell in water about 50 yds. ahead, delay action, and exploded underneath ship as she passed over it. Abandoned, and sank at about 1015/1. Casualties, 1 off. 7 men killed, about 15 wounded, also about 25 soldiers killed or wounded.
A.C.O.S.	War Diary, June 1940, (T.S.D. 4837/40). ASTRONOMER destroyed by torpedo, mine or internal explosion 1/6. Extinguishing of lights not absolutely necessary for navigation, 8/6. Raid by Skuas on enemy ships at Trondheim 13/6. ANDANIA torpedoed 15/6. Movements of Swedish destroyers, Faroes 21/6 etc.
V.A. Aircraft carriers.	War Diary 3 May to 28 June 1940. (T.S.D. 4212/40) Operations in ARK ROYAL with HOOD to intercept French Battleship RICHELIEU off Dakar. 26/6 to 28/6.
F.O.I.C. Invergordon	War Diary 1 - 14 June 1940. (T.S.D. 4662/40).
V.A. 18 C.S.	Capture of Narvik. R. of P. Lt. Com. A.N. Balfour, R.N., N.L.O. French Troops, 7/6. (M.012538/40).
C.in C. Med.	War Diary for 14/6. (T.S.D. 4739/40) Sweep to Eastward continued along south Coast of Crete. Precautions A/S and entire mining for entry of Fleet into harbour, (Alexandria).
S.N.O. Simonstown.	War Diary 1 - 30th June 1940 (T.S.D. 5038/40). Increase of work due to closing of Mediterranean to traffic. Italian S.S. SISTIANA seized on outbreak of war with Italy. S.S. TIMAVO beached herself; seized by RANCHI (eventually became tctal loss). S.S. GERUSALEMME beached herself in Portuguese waters. 13/7 Convoy CM arrived. Lack of A/S protection in Union ports. 30/6 SISTIANA taken over by SAR and H, and renamed MYRICA.
ALCANTARA.	War Diary May and June 1940. T.S.D. 5291/40. No interest.

/ V.A. Dover. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries etc. for June, 1940 (Contd.)

V.A. Dover.		War Diary 16-30 June 1940 (T.S.D. 4489/40)
	16/6.	Atlantic Convoys to be sailed in 2 portions (1) ocean going (2) smaller coasting craft, as temporary measure to reduce size of outward Atlantic Convoys until more escort vessels available. (See C.in C. Nore 2206/16).
	17/6.	VIVACIOUS, VESPER, engagement with E.boats.
	19/6.	Failure of 12 small motor yachts from Newhaven to reach Dover. One caught fire and sank, remainder returned. ROSEBURN torpedoed by E.boats.
	20/6.	"Sausage net" patrol against E.boats begun.
	21/6.	Two of 4 M.T.B's allocated to Dover arrived. Several unexplained explosions.
	22/6.	M.T.B's operated near Dungeness on this and subsequent nights.
	24/6.	ALBUERA torpedoed. SVEND FOYN brought in. Attempt to intercept enemy train ferry.
	27/6.	M. A/S B's engage E.boats.
	28/6.	E. boats attack WELLARD. A/C attack CODRINGTON near Folkestone.
	29/6.	New trawler patrol instituted to counter enemy minelaying.
		This Diary contains a "General Appreciation; the chief points of which are the increasing activity of E.boats, increase of inshore anti-invasion patrols. A quiet period.
		Appendices. Destroyer Patrol in Straits (Short title "O.O"). Ships available.
C.in C. W.A.		War Diary. 16/6 - 30/6. Narrative based on Signals of Operation "Aerial". Numerous ships attacked by U/B's. Air Raids, Cardiff Area, Devonport area, etc. Fortnightly reports for F.O's I.C., Cardiff, Liverpool, Milford H., and Belfast, N.O's I.C., Falmouth and Dartmouth. (T.S.D. 5214/40).
F.O.I.C. Portland.		War Diary 1/6 - 14/6. (T.S.D.4938/40). Harbour defence and A/A defences, etc., Degaussing Establishment, Contraband Control Base, (statistics).

/ R.A.(D) H.F. .....

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries, etc. for June, 1940.(Contd.)

R.A.(D) H.F.	War Diary 1/6 - 15/6 (T.S.D.4614/40). Sinking of ASTRONOMER, 2/6; CARINTHIA, 6/6; enemy force and sinking of GLORIOUS etc., 9/6; SCOTSTOUN torpedoed, 13/6; ANDANIA torpedoed, 15/6.
C.in C. Portsmouth.	War Diary 1/6 - 14/6. (T.S.D. 4963/40). A/S Operations, Operations Cycle and Dynamo, Minesweeping, Convoys, Local Defence Measures, VERNON mining and minesweeping development.
C.in C. Med.	War Diary for 14/6, in continuation of Med. 0590/94/22 of 15/6/40. (T.S.D. 4739/40). Sweep to eastward continued along south coast of Crete. A/S and anti-mining precautions taken for entry of Fleet into Alexandria. Submarine contacts during passage, no definite result from any of these contacts.
Ex-German ALSTER.	R. of P., 12/4 - 5/6. Norway. Accommodated PENELOPE ship's company. Unloaded cargo at Tromso. Embarked iron ore at Kirkenes, and left for Harstad and U.K., after embarking crew of S.S. MASHOBRA. (M. 015079/40).
C.in C. Nore.	Operation Order "PE" (Purge), repelling invasion, dated 11/6/40. (M.017190/40).
V.A.S.	O.R.P. ORZEL, Circumstances of loss and appreciation of services. (M.011826/40).
C.in C. Home Fleet.	War Diary 1-15 June 1940. T.S.D.4589/40. Loss of GLORIOUS see 11/6.
N.O.I.C. Lerwick.	War Diary June 1940 T.S.D.4713/40 Loss of RIVER NESS by aircraft attack 10/6.
R.A. (M.L.)	War Diary 17/6-30/6. (T.S.D. 5336/40) Flag of R.A. (M.L.) hoisted TRELAWNEY 17/6. Mine Supply. Defences of Port Z.A.
V.A. Aircraft Carriers.	War Diary 3/5 - 28/6. Scapa to Gibraltar and operations to intercept RICHELIEU. (T.S.D. 4212/40)
F.O.I.C. Invergordon	War Diary 1/6 - 14/6. (T.S.D. 4662/40) Nothing of importance.
Hospital Carrier ST. JULIEN.	Master's Report of Enemy Air Attacks. (M. 011272/40.
V.A.S.	War Diary 1/6-30/6. (T.S.D. 5112/40)

/ South Atlantic Station ..

MOST SECRET.

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc. for June 1940. (Contd.)

South Atlantic Station.	Annual Report of South African R.N.V.R. to 30/6. Force not mobilised on outbreak of war, but volunteers called for, and port war signal stations and examination services put into operation. Provision of M/S and A/S vessels, crews for D.M.C's and D.E.M.S. Seaward Defence Force established 9/10/39, by loan or transfer of volunteers from S.A.N.S. R.N.V.R. (S.A.) R.N. retired officers, and new entries. Started to function 15/1/40. Provision of armed guards. Statistics. (M. 016106).
V.A. Dover.	War Diary. 1/6 - 15/6 (T.S.D.4488/40) Dunkirk evacuation. Losses from air attack. On 1/6 personnel ships, out of 29 originally available, 8 sunk, 7 in dock for major repairs, 2 undergoing minor repairs, leaving 12 in running order. Despite strain, magnificent spirit of personnel. Average troops carried by destroyers rose from 700 to 1500. Blocking operations, French ports. List of ships available at Dover 1-15/6. General Appreciation.
N.O.I.C. Aden.	War Diary 1/6 - 30/6. (T.S.D. 4188/40). Italian entry into war. Air raids 12/6 and onwards. Capture of Submarine GALILEO GALILEI by MOONSTONE, 19/6.
North Atlantic Command.	R. of P., 1/5 - 30/6. (M.015952/40). Entry of Italy into the War. Gibraltar evacuations. Attitude of French Fleet. Interview of F.O.C.N.A. with Adm. Esteva 24/6. French Armistice 25/6. Operations against French Fleet. Force H formed 28/6. Convoy statistics and Control Service details. Evacuation of refugees and Allied troops from south of France. Reports of KEPPEL and VELOX at Port Vendres.

MOST SECRET.

War Diaries, Summaries, R. of P., etc. for July 1940.

Operation "Anger". Report, C.in C. W.A. (M.014815/40). Submarine H.43 embarked 2nd Lieut. Nicholle of the Guernsey Militia for landing in Icart Bay, Guernsey, 2115/6. Folbot set off inshore with Nicolle and Sub-Lieut. J.E. Leith, R.N.R., at 0017/8. Leitch returned 0211/8 and Folbot hauled on board. H.43 returned 0645/9.

PANDORA R. of P., 29/6 - 10/7. Off Algiers. At 1407/4 torpedoed a cruiser of GALISSONNIERE class. Ship sank by the stern at 1522. PANDORA subsequently bombed. (M.015050/40).

V.A.C. 1 C.S. War Diary 16/7. (T.S.D. 4392/40). At Scapa. Escort to Iceland Convoy. Force A (C.S.1. in DEVONSHIRE, B.C.1 in RENOWN, and destroyers) ordered to intercept GNEISENAU if attempting to leave Trondheim for Germany, 27/7. Air reconnaissance Trondheim at 0800/28 reported no warship in harbour.

S.N.O. Simonstown. War Diary July 1940 (T.S.D. 5039/40) 1/7 Italian PIEMONTE sent out S.O.S. Agulhas minefield - sweeping. Helplessness of soldiers in troop transports.

C.in C. H.F. Code Words to be used for making first reports in event of enemy invasion, 6/7/40. (M. 013254/40).

CUMBERLAND. Report of Convoy W.S.1, QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA and MAURETANIA, Liverpool to Freetown. (M. 014957/40) 29/6 - 8/7. - Report 9/7 - 16/7 (M. 016367/40).

1st C.S. V.A. 1 C.S. War Diary 1 - 15 July 1940. T.S.D. 4391/40. DEVONSHIRE left Halifax 1/7 with EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA for Iceland and FURIOUS for Liverpool. SHROPSHIRE, SUSSEX escorting troop convoy (ORMONDE, ULSTER PRINCE) left Greenock 9/7 for Iceland, returned 14/7.

Convoy A.S.1. R. of P. 28.6 - 2.7.40 (by NUBIAN) M. 016370/40 Escort. CAPETOWN (R.A. 3 C.S.) CALEDON, NUBIAN (Capt. (D) 14), MOHAWK, GARLAND, VAMPIRE.

N.O.I.C. Aberdeen. War Diary 15/7 - 31/7. (T.S.D. 4166/40). Air raids and enemy minelaying.

EGRET. Convoy F.S. 24. R. of P. (M.014933/40). Air attack 1100/17/7.

N.O.I.C. Aberdeen. War Diary 1/7 - 14/7. (T.S.D. 4165/40.) Air raids.

N.O.I.C. Blyth. War Diary 1/7 - 14/7. (T.S.D. 4339/40). Air raids and enemy mining.

HURRICANE. R. of P., 20/7 - 28/7. (M.015899/40). Convoy.

/ N.C.S.O. Methil ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diaries, Summaries, R. of P., etc. received for July 1940.

N.C.S.O. Methil	War Diary 16/7 - 31/7. (T.S.D., 4765/40). Convoys, boom defences, SALVESTRIA mined and sunk 27/7.
R.A.C. 15 C.S.	War Diary 18/7 - 31/7. (T.S.D., 5401/40). Flag hoisted in NAIAD, North Shields, 0800/18. Rosyth to Scapa Flow.
N.O.I.C. Poole.	War Diary 16/7 - 31/7. (T.S.D. 5372/40). Preparations for local defence.
F.O.I.C. Invergordon.	War Diary 15/7 - 31/7. (T.S.D. 4663/40). Defence of ports, block-ships, etc.
V.A.S.	Revised instructions re submarine sanctuaries and bombing restrictions. (M. 014452/40).
V.A.S.	Possible institution of Submarine patrol off West Coast of France. (M. 013526/40). V.A.S. letter 12/7/40, etc.
N.O.I.C. Tees-Hartlepool.	War Diary 15/7 - 31/7. Air Raids, Middlesbrough and Billingham, Magnetic Minesweeping.
LOWESTOFT.	Convoy MT 15 and F.S.27. R. of P. 20/7 - 22/7. (M. 014994/40).
FLEETWOOD	Convoy F.N. 29. R. of P. 22-24/7. (M. 014934/40).
BROKE	R. of P. 5/7-9/7. Air attack on Convoy O.A. 178, 5/7. Attacked U/B, 6/7. Rammed by gunboat YUSBASI HAKKI, 6/7. Further attack on U/B disguised as fishing smack, reported by MANISTEE, 7/9. Rescued survivors of Swedish BISSEN, 7/7. (M. 014353/40).
BEAGLE	R. of enemy air attacks on 19/7-20/7 off Dover and Portland. (M.015060/40).
R.A. (M.L.)	War Diary 16/7-31/7. (T.S.D.5338/40). Mark XX mines, 25% of premature explosions (observed 11/7) investigations. Supply of mines at Port ZA improving. Defences at Port ZA.
SNAPPER.	Patrol Report, 22/6-4/7. Norway. Attacks in Convoys. (M.013449/40).
REVENGE.	R. of P. 3/7-12/7. (M. 015252). Convoy of children and internees, to Halifax.

/ C.in C. Nore .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diaries, Summaries, R. of P. etc., for July 1940.

C.in C. Nore.	War Diary 1/7-15/7. (T.S.D. 4816/40). Operation "Purge" (repelling an invader) exercised and tests of communications made. Considerable enemy air activity. No evidence that any U-boat operating in command. Minesweeping. Minelaying operations. B.S. 20-23 completed. O.A. convoys via Channel stopped owing to vulnerability to air attack, merged with F.N. convoys and first sailed 4/7. Channel Coastal (CW) convoys instituted but subject to heavy air attack in Straits.
V.A.C. B.C.S.	War Diary 1-15 and 16-31/7. (T.S.D. 4290/40). At Scapa to 27/7 then sweeping to Trondheim on report of enemy ships, to 29/7. Nothing of interest.
C.in C. W.A.	War Diary 1/7-15/7. (T.S.D. 5215/40). Conclusion of Operation Aerial. U.26 sunk 1/7. Air attacks on convoys from French Coast. OA 178 heavily bombed off Portland, 4 ships sunk and 3 damaged. Convoys diverted north of Ireland, only coasting traffic in the Channel. Air raids, interference with work in dockyard and factories. (Operational portion very detailed, 1 to 3 pages close-typed for each day.)
NARWHAL.	R. of P. 30/6-7/7/40. (No.56/30 V.A. Submarines).
SEVERN	Patrol Report 20/6/-2/7/40 (M.O.13577/40).
SNAPPER.	R. of P. 22/6-4/7/40 (M.013449/40).
PORPOISE	Patrol Report 4/7-10/7/40 (M.014050/40)
A.C.N.S.(H)	Memorandum - Anti-Invasion Reconnaissance (M.012956/40). Co-ordination of all forms of Reconnaissance.
Submarine H.50 SEALION	Patrol Report 25/6-11/7/40 (M.013696/40)
TRITON	Patrol Report 18/6-3/7/40 (M.013446/40)
Submarine H.44	Patrol Report 9/7-16/7/40 (M.014216/40)
F.O.I.C. Tyne.	War Diary 1/7-15/7/40 (T.S.D. 5189/40).
N.O.I.C. Sunderland.	War Diary 15/6-15/7/40(T.S.D. 5138/40).
Submarine H.49.	Patrol Report 2/7-15/7/40.(M. 014153/40).
SWORDFISH	Patrol Report 1/7-12/7/40.(M.014156/40)
Submarine H.31.	Patrol Report 19/6-1/7/40. (M.013931/40)
C.in C. Rosyth.	Report on Convoy F.S.14. (M.014136/40).
TRIBUNE	Patrol Report 4/7-10/7. (M.013879/40).

/ Convoy BHX 54. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc. received for July 1940.

Convoy B.H.X. 54.	R. of P. from C.O. ASCANIA (M.014133/40)
SEAWOLF	Patrol Report 2/7 - 12/7. (M.013893/40)
F.O.C.N.A.	Re Status of, whether he should be raised to C.in C. Matter originated on letter from V.A. Sir Dudley North dated 21.2.40, deferred until attitude of Italy became clearer. First Sea Lord decided no change to be made, 28/7/40 (M.1081/40).
S/M. H.50.	Patrol Report 28/6 - 7/7. (M.013880/40)
Operation M.A.6.	Object, to destroy enemy surface vessels in Tobruk Harbour, especially battle-ship SAN GIORGIO. Forces, EAGLE and surface escort; 3 bomber squadrons, R.A.F., 1 Swordfish torpedo squadron from EAGLE. Instructions for the Operation. (M.013195/40).
R.A. 18 C.S.	R. of P., 1/7 - 15/7. (M.014613/40).
SPEARFISH.	Patrol Report 3/7 - 17/7. (M.014613/40)
TRIAD	Patrol Report 27/6 - 13/7.(M.014155/40)
N.O.I.C. Tees-Hartlepool.	War Diary 1/7 - 14/7. Air raids and minesweeping (T.S.D. 5164/40).
Operation J.D.	Revised Appendix I, (a) Aircraft, (b) Ships and Shore Batteries. C.in C. Portsmouth 01150/500. (M.014500/40)
TAKU.	Patrol Report 28/6 - 11/7. (M.014152/40)
Eire.	Navy and Army Co-operation in event of invasion. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, No.7952/40 /38, C.in C. W.A. No.3552/M.517) - (M.014173/40).
SUNFISH.	Patrol Report, 4/7 - 17/7. (M.014319/40).
Iceland.	R. of P., 16/6 - 11/7. Report of N.O.I.C. 13/7, E/10/098. (M.014760/40).
F.O.I.C. Glasgow.	War Diary, 16 May to 15 July. (T.S.D., 4561/40) Very skimpy, one page only. First air raid over Glasgow, 26/6, no bombs. Others, 13/7, 17/7, no bombs; and 19/7, two bombs dropped, considerable damage to property, none naval or military.
New Zealand.	Activities of Defence Forces in relation to the War. Statement by Hon. F. Jones, Minister of Defence, H. 19A. (M.3668/40).

/ C.in C. S.A. .....

MOST SECRET

War Diaries, R. Of P., etc., for July 1940

R.A.(D) H.F.	War Diary 16-31 July 1940. (T.S.D. 4616/40)
16/7	Sweep by Capt. D. IV and Capt D III. Loss of IMOGEN in consequence of collision with GLASGOW.
27/7	Sweep by Force A towards Norwegian Coast.
28/7	SS ORLOCH HEAD bombed survivors landed.
OSIRIS	Patrol report 29/6- 23/7/40. (M.018395/40)
LEITH	Convoy H.X. 53 R. of P. 7/7 to 10/7. (M.015898/40)
C. in C., W.A.	War Diary 16-31 July 1940 (T.S.D. 5216/40)
16/7	CITY OF LIMERICK, crew landed. SCOTTISH MINSTREL Torpedoed reported sunk 0034/17. JANNA (Nor.) torpedoed and sunk 11/7.
17/7	SS FISCUS and FOLKESTONE saved 37 of crew of SCOTTISH MINSTREL
18/7	Limets of W. Approaches Command altered.
19/7	Survivors of SS IA (Greek 4860 tons) landed at Penzance 17/7 from Scilly Is. and reported their vessel torpedoed and sunk, one officer and 2 men killed. Survivors 5 days in boats before reaching Scillies SS MANIPUR (8652 tons) torpedoed and sunk. 58° 41' N., 5° 14' W., at 2315/17. 64 survivors picked up by SKEENA 14 lost.
20/7	SS BELLEROCK (1199 tons) mined and sunk, probably 15/7, in 51° 19' 54" N., 3° 45' 25" W
21/7	SS FROSSULA (Panamanian 1282 tons) bombed and believed sunk 2030/15 about 240 miles N.W. of Finisterre. 3 men landed at Salcombe in boat.
22/7	SS LEOLA (Est. 499 tons) stated to have been bombed and sunk 17/7. 9 of crew, including 2 women, landed at Newlyn 19/7 by Belgian trawler ROGER JEANNINE. 9 others including 1 woman, missing. (See also 24/7)
	H.M.Trawler CAMPINA mined off outer breakwater light, Holyhead. 10 of crew killed, 3 injured survivors picked up.
23/7	SS LADY OF MOSTYN (305 tons) mined 1½ miles 79° Formby Light Ship, outside marked channel Crew probably 6, no survivors.

24/7.....

MOST SECRET

War Diaries, R. of P., etc., for July 1940 Contd.

24/7	SS LEOLA (see 22/7) second boat landed 6 men and 1 woman. 2 men died in boat.
	SS WOODBURY (4434 tons) Torpedoed without warning and sunk 0100/18, two boats, one at Carhirciven and one at Castletown, landed 35 of crew.
26/7, 27/7, 28/7 & 29/7.	VINEMOOR and ACCRA. Re sinking and survivors.
27/7, 28/7, 29/7 & 30/7.	SS THIARA, SAMBRE. Re torpedoing.
	Sand dredger DURDHAM mined.
28/7	M.V. AUCKLAND STAR torpedoed. Details.
29/7	SS OUSEBRIDGE, re mining.
31/7	SS JERSEY CITY torpedoed. Details.
	Cardiff
15/7	SS BELLROCK (1199 tons) mined. Details.
31/7	SS STALHEIM (Nor.) mined. Details. See also Swansea.
	Belfast
	During latter half of July enemy air activities extended to Belfast Lough for first time.
20/7	TROUTPOOL mined. Details.

War Diaries, R. of P., etc., for July 1940-Contd.

C. in C. Mediterranean

War Diary, July 1940 (T.S.D. 4740/40)

1/7	Escort vessels required in Eastern Mediterranean. C. in C., has no ships with sufficient A/S armament suitable for convoy escort work. Fighter aircraft asked for, for Malta and more Sunderland flying boats for Eastern Mediterranean. All British shipping in Syrian ports to sail for Haifa or Port Said forthwith. Turks agree to Chanak being assembly port for Aegean convoys.
7/7 to 12/7	Operation M.A. 5. Description.
13/7	French shipping bound for ports in France or in French possessions where British ships are detained is to be stopped, but in other French colonial possessions friendly relations should be established and shipping allowed. C. in C., Med. asks Admty. for permission for our submarines to sink Italian shipping proceeding to Libya, without warning.
14/7	Authorised to sink without warning when within 30 miles of Libyan coast.
17/7	Admty. issue instructions that efforts are to ne made to improve the relations between French and British Navies. Further attacks on French ships will not be made except on ships proceeding to an enemy controlled port Shortage of spare engined for 201 aircraft Squadron, which seriously affects Fleet operations.
18/7	Italian shipping to be sunk without warning within 30 miles of any Italian territory and ships of any nationality to be sunk within 30 miles of Libyan territory.
18/7-20/7	Operations by Light Forces. Sinking of BARTOLOMEO COLLEONE.
19/7	Fleet proceeded to sea.
20/7	Attack on Tobruk by torpedo aircraft from EAGLE
22/7	Re Greek ships proceeding through Straits of Messina.

/26/7....

War Diaries, R. of P., etc., for July 1940

(T.S.D. 4740/40-Contd.)

26/7	Italian seaplane force landed at Crete 24/7 and was allowed to leave after effecting repairs. British protest.
	Requsitioning of French ships.
27/7-30/7	Fleet to cover Convoy A.S. 2.
30/7	F.A.A. requirements in Egypt.
31/7	Operation M.A. 9 (Diversion for "Hurry")

C. in C., Rosyth — War Diary 16th-31st July 1940 (T.S.D.4991/40

16/7	French merchant ships in British harbours are to sail under British flag, today saw the manning of the French Fleet which is in our hands.
18/7	New boundaries for Rosyth and Western Approaches Command came into force today.
21/7	New patrol of A.M.C's known as Western Patrol is to be instituted.
24/7	Evidence points to fact that mine barrage to northward of the German declared area has been laid.
27/7	As result of message received from an enemy aircraft off the Fair Isles, stating that "no enemy ships to the eastward of me" Force A consisting of the Battlecruisers, 4 cruisers and 10 destroyers left Scapa for the Eastward in case enemy forces were approaching this country.
	Westher is given daily

C. in C., Portsmouth War Diary 1-14 July 1940 (T.S.D. 4965/40)

Chief events are indexed under dates on which they occurred.

MOST SECRET

War Diaries R. of P., Summaries etc., for July 1940

PARTHIAN	R. of P., 14/6-3/7. Attack on Italian submarine 20/6. (M.017177/40)
V.A.Dover	War Diary 1/7-15/7. (T.S.D. 4490/40) Convoy C.A. 178, 3/7, last of its kind. Only coastal ships between Thames and Bristol Channel to be routed along South Coast others to join F.N. Convoys up East Coast -and proceed nort about. Air Raids. First night raid on Dober. 14-15/7, no ships hit, 2 casualties in trawler BIRCH from splinters. Anti-invasion preparations E-Boat activity on most nights when weather suitable, only victim A/S trawler CAYTON WYKE at 0110/7.
AUSTRALIA	War Diary 1/7-31/7. (T.S.D. 4593/40) Freetown, Dakar to 9/7. Greenock and Scapa to 27/7, then patrol off Norway to 29/7. Attack on RICHELIEU. Leave-breaking at Capetown and Greenock referred to in C.O's letter of proceedings.
F.O.I.C. Portland	War Diary, 1/7-15/7. (T.S.D. 4940/40) Attack on 5 M.A/S.B's at 1530/13 who approached Portland during an air raid and failed to make recognition signal. Local Defence measures. Degaussing. Contraband Control. Air Raods.
R.A.S.A.D.	War Diary July 1940 (T.S.D. 5290/40) HAWKINS in Rio de Janeiro area 1/7 to Plate area 9/7. PRETORIA CASTLE in Plate area ALCANTARA's movements. Capt. H.P.K. Oram assumed command of HAWKINS 13/7 vice Actg. Capt. W.A. Whitaker, R.N. Retd.) HAWKINS at Montevideo 15/7, 16/7. Proceeded on patrol in Plate area. Fuelled off San Sebastio Island 23/7. Plans for safeguarding British and Allied trade after news of Sinking of DAVISIAN and KING JOHN. Movements after action between ALCANTARA and German raider 200 miles S.S.W. of Trinidada Island, 28/7.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air.

Air attack on Shipping.	H.M.S. VIVIEN. Report of action 11/1/40 while escorting convoy F.S.69 Merchant Ship attached by hostile a/c. M. 02347/40.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Air attack on Shipping.	H.M.S. VIVIEN. Report of action 11/1/40 while escorting convoy F.S.69 Merchant Ship attached by hostile a/c. M. 02347/40.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN AND MINING.

Submarines Attacked.

0010.

By VESPER with Convoy S.L. 14F.
"No doubt a U-boat was destroyer."
Second success achieved by VESPER
(Lieut. Comdr. W.F.E. Hussey
D.S.C., R.N.) (M.01908/40)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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MOST SECRET

War Diaries, R. of P. etc., received for November 1939

East Indies, War Diary (T.S.D. 4145/40)

Hunting forces to be rested 4/11.
Bombay area temporarily unoccupied 10/11
Warship raider expected on Colombo-Aden routes about 10/11.
Routeing of ships via Mozambique Channel stopped 16/11.
Dispositions of forces in view of raider reports.
Force 1 sent to Mauritious area 14/11,
Forces K and H to Cape 27/11.
Enemy heavy ships suspected on the station; decision to run convoys.

F.O.I.C. Clyde — Report of Occurrences on 22/11/39 in vicinity of boom defence (attacks on submarine which had penetrated boom defence) D.I.B.D. Minute 24/1/40, considers no U-Boat was in fact present on this occasion, but certain additional precautions taken. (M. 015775/39)

Operation F.E. — Extension of Folkestone Grisnez Minefield 15-17/11/39. Report. (M.015322/39)

ISIS — R. of P., 13/11- 20/11. (M. 017457/39)

MOST SECRET

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries etc., received for December, 1939

East Indies, War Diary (T.S.D. 4145/40)

Dispositions when GRAF SPEE located 13/12.

Investigation of Prince Edward I. and Crozets 10/12.

INGLEFIELD — R. of P. 23/11- 1/12, Convoy P.N.3. (M. 017341/39)

MOST SECRET

War Diaries, R.of P etc., received for January 1940

East Indies, War Diary for January 1940 (T.S.D. 4145/40)

Dispositions 1/1.
Establishment of air operational bases on South Arabian Coast and Socotra
Passage of Australian and New Zealand Troop Convoy U.S.1.
Search of Maldines and establishment of Nine Degree Channel Patrol.

Suez Canal Area War Diary for January 1940 (T.S.D. 4737/40)

Submarine War Orders

Submarine North Sea Patrols (Short title F.F. 5.) 30.1.40. (M.02421)

Gibraltar War Orders

V.A.C., North Atlantic No 651/1671 (M. 017365/40)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARIES, R. of P., etc., received for month of MARCH, 1940.

South Atlantic.	War Diary for March. (T.S.D., 4150/40). Three parts, I., Operations, II., Freetown, III, Dakar. Part I. chiefley convoy protection, reports of possible commerce raiders, and patrols against likely escape of WINDHUK, BABITONGA, DRESDEN and RIO GRANDE Part II, has enclosure with list Convoys sailing from Freetown during March, and numbers of Sout African R.N.V.R. Part III., nothing of importance. (Remainder indexed chronologicall
South Atlantic.	(South American Division)(M09655/ War Despatch No.1. 3/9/39 - 28/3/ (Battle of River Plate sinking of German M.Vs. noted chronologicall
ODIN.	R. of P. 5/2 - 31/3/40. (M.09677/
Colonial Office.	Report on Naval Activities in Nigeria 1/9/39 - 1/3/40. (M011589
F.O.I.C. Portland.	War Diary 26/2 - 15/3. Start of Degaussing Station, work of Contraband Control Base, Weymouth (T.S.D. 4054/40).
Operation P.A.2.	R. of P.(M.04593/40). Track Chart TEVIOT BANK (M.05877/40). Laying position of mines 58.30 N., 01.27 on a course 012 with a stern bear of Rothsay Head Light.
Commodore, Hong Kong.	War Diary March 1940.(T.S.D.4638/ No major incidents. Mines adrift from West Lamma field. Boom work. D.E.M.S. Degaussing Contraband

MOST SECRET

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries, etc., for April, 1940

Norway.	Report of proceedings 19/4 to 25/4 from Admiral Sir Edward Evans re his mission to Norway. (Almost entirely diplomatic and political. Enclosures include facsimiles of documents captured by Germans in office of N.C.S.O., Narvik).(M. 010564/40)
	R. of P. on situation at Aalesund Capt. C.A.O.Douglas R.M., late N.C.S.O., Aalesund (M.09014/40)
	Reports of Pilots returned after forced landing in Norway. (M.08930)
Tug SALVONIA	R. of Salvage of SS. VILLE DE BRUGES, 24/3-1/4. M.07001/40.
ICARUS	Letter of proceedings 11/4-25/4. 20th D.F. minelaying, operating directly under Admty. Second Battle of Narvik. Capture of ALSTER. Boarding of German destroyer HANS LUDEMANN. (O.D. 2090/40)
V.A.2.C.S.	R. of P. 21/4-25/4. (M.08137/40) Aandalsness Operation Sickle 2. Air Attacks on GALATEA and GLASGOW.
PELICAN	R. of P., 20/4-24/4. Severely damaged by air attack., ¼th of ship's company killed. Towed back to Lerwick. (M.08918/40)
R.A.Malaya	War Diary 1 March-30 April 1940 (T.S.D. 5237/40)
R.A.S.A.D.	War Diary CUMBERLAND, 1/4-30/4. (T.S.D. 5289/40) No incidents.
C. in C., S.A.	War Diary, April 1940. (T.S.D. 5061/B/40) I Operations II Freetown III Dakar. P licy for Norwegian Shipping, 20/4. Convoys sailed for Freetown
S.N.O. Persian Gulf	War Diary for April 1940 (T.S.D. 4862/40)
F.O.I.C.,R.I.N.	War Diary for April 1940 (T.S.D. 5012/40)
Convoy F.P.1.	R. of P. 19-21/4/40 (M. 07860/40)
C. in C., W.A.	War Diary 1-15/4/40 (T.S.D. 4105/40)

MOST SECRET

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries etc., for May 1940

N.O.I.C. Aden	War Diary, May 1940. Australian Convoy U.S.2 arrived 12/5. Sweeps and patrols. (T.S.D. 4187/40)
F.A.A. "Bishop Force" See June.	
C. in C., S.A.	War Diary May 1940. (T.S.D. 5063/40)
8/5.	British and Norwegian ships from Persian Gulf and west coast of India to proceed to U.K. via Mediterranean, but ships at or E. of Colombo still to be diverted round cape. Revised instructions 16/5.
13/5.	Reason for chaos in connection with transfer of West African Brigade.
14/5.	Movements in view of situation with Italy
4/5.	66 Lascar crew of H.M.H.S. OXFORDSHIRE handed over to police for mass insubordinatic at Freetown.
13/5.	Minefield off C. Agulhas first discovered.
16/5.	Minefield confirmed.
F.O.C., R.I.N.	War Diary May 1940 (T.S.D. 5014/40)
23/5.	CONTE VERDE shadowed into harbour by PARTHIAN in case she laid mines etc., and in view of political situation with Italy. KENT was sailed towards Bombay to intercept, and shadow CONTE VERDE on her voyage to Colombo.
N.O.I.C. Harstad	R. of P. covering period from 6/4, when base staff was formed, to 5/5, when Rear-Adm. A.L.St.G. Lyster and A.F. Lord Cork, on confusion in early days of expedition, difficulties in billeting, selection of personnel not medically fit for such an arduous undertaking.
Cdre. Hong Kong	War Diary, May 1940 (T.S.D. 4639/40) SS SIROGANE MARU has 3 times broken terms of agreement and carried cargo other than stores from Canton to Hong Kong.

MOST SECRET.

War Diaries. R. of P. Summaries etc. for May 1940.

R.A. 3rd Battle Squadron.	War Diary for May 1940.(T.S.D.4312/40).
D.O.D.(T)	Supply of M.T.B's from U.S.A. (M.014057/40).
B.P.B. Co.	Alternative Supply of M.T.B's from U.S.A. (M.014056/40).
R.A.C. South American Division.	War Diary 1/5-31/5/40 (T.S.D.5287/40)
ARK ROYAL.	Operations off Narvik 4/5-24/5/40. (A.0486/40). Inferiority of British aircraft types.
M.T.B. 22.	R. of P. 12-15/5/40. (M.09857/40).
F.O. Dover.	Narrative of Operations off Dutch, Belgian and French coasts. 10/5-25/5/40. (M.013316/40).
M.T.B.16.	R. of P. 14/5 - 15/5/40. (M.010303/40).
Home Fleet Destroyer Command.	War Diary 16/5 - 31/5/40. (T.S.D.4613/40).
C.in C. S.A.	Reports of Naval Activities in Nigeria, M.010231/40. Gold Coast, the Gambia to 6/5/40.
C.in C. Rosyth.	War Diary 15/5 - 31/5. (T.S.D. 4987/40) Aircraft of Coastal Command bombed an alleged enemy submarine (see 19/5).
N.A. Hague.	Report on German invasion of Holland. 14/5 - 16/5. Commendation of officers of R.N. and R.M., and Dutch Navy. Mentions great difficulty of communications, especially with Admiralty. (M.09997/40).
R.A. A/A Ships.	Report of Operations in Namsos area 25/4 - 3/5. (M. 010531/40).
Canada:	Dept. of National Defence; Review of Canadian Naval Situation, 1/5/40. (M./09978/40) 94 vessels in commission in R.C.N., 63 on E. Coast, 31 on W.

/Operation D.X. .....

War Diaries, R. of P. Summaries, etc., for May 1940. (Contd.)

Operation D.X.	Report of V.A., Aircraft-Carriers, on operations off Norwegian Coast from 23/4 to 3/5 by ARK ROYAL and GLORIOUS accompanied by escorting forces, dated 23/5, with covering letter from C.in C., H.F. dated 15/5. First time in history that carrier-borne aircraft have been employed in prolonged operations of this nature. Difficult problem balancing the necessity for operating carriers as close to shore as possible to ease the task of aircraft crews against the need for keeping them as far to seaward as possible to reduce scale of enemy shore-based air attack. F.A.A. aircraft outclassed by everything that flies. C.in C. H.F. says the sooner we get some efficient aircraft the better. Minute by D.N.A.D. re trials with American types. (M. 011871/40).
UNITY.	Report of diving operations to locate wreck of UNITY, 30/4 - 2/5. (M. 09327).
P.O.I.C. Portland.	War Diary 16/5 - 31/5. (T.S.D. 4937/40) Local Defence measures, Dockyard L.D.V., 68 ships degaussed, Mobile Wiping Unit, Contraband Control Base.
Operation X.D.A.	Report. (M.010752/40). Report of Comdr. M.G. Goodenough dated 17/5/40 of Demolitions of Amsterdam and Ymuiden.
C.in C. A.W.I.	War Diary 1/5 - 31/5 (T.S.D. 4262/40). Sailing of first Bermuda Convoy 7/5. Occupation of Dutch West Indies, 12/5. 4 Canadian destroyers lent for home waters.
Minesweeping Division.	East Coast Distribution of Minesweepers, 22/5/40. (M.010210/40). Defence of E. Coast, Auxiliary Patrol Force, 29/5/40. (M. M/S 0393/40).
Operation "Bottle".	Aerial minelaying off Norway 17/5. R. of P. (M.010300/40).
S.N.O. Simonstown.	R. of M/S Operations off Agulhas Bank 15/5 - 21/5. (M.013251/40).
ALCANTARA.	War Diary May and June 1940. (T.S.D. 5291/40) No interest.
Low Countries.	Ships Engaged in Operations off Dutch, Belgian and French Coasts, May, 1940. List of those which made reports enclosed in F.O.I.C. Dover's B14/0/1137/40, dated 27/7/40. (M.014793/40):- BRILLIANT, KEITH, MALCOLM, VALENTINE, VENOMOUS, VERITY, VESPER, VIMIERA, VIMY, WESTMINSTER, WESSEX, VIVACIOUS, WHITLEY, WHITSHED, WILD SWAN, WINDSOR, WINCHESTER, WIVERN, WOLSEY, WOLFHOUND, Polish Destroyer BURZA, BOTANIC, JOHN CATTLING, MARETTA, CONIDAW, GULZAR, LORD HOWE, LADY BRASSEY, ST.ANDREW, SAMOIS.

/ WREN .....

War Diaries. R. of P., Summaries, etc. for May, 1940. (Contd.)

WREN.	R. of P., off Norway 30/4 - 21/5. (M. 011113/40) Over 100 bombs dropped in 12 attacks by aircraft on 16/5. Several splinter hits. Many other air attacks.
Bergen.	R. of attacks on oil fuel tanks at Bergen by 806 Sqdn., Hatston, 16/5. (M. 010365/40).
C.in C. China.	War Diary, May, 1940. (T.S.D. 4363/40). H.M. Ships abroad to be degaussed soon as possible, 6/5. Threatened attack on Dutch East Indies. Mines off Cape Agulhas, 15/5, suspicions of a ship disguised as Japanese. COLOMBO and CERES withdrawn 26/5.
S.N.O., Simonstown.	R. of M/S Operations on Agulhas Bank, 16/5-21/5. (M. 013251).
GLASGOW.	R. of P., 28/4-4/5. Evacuation of King of Norway and Government from Molde 2235/29. (M. 08807/40).
C.in C. H.F.	Operations "Tunnel" and "Brick I". Reports of evacuation of Aandalsnes and Molde, 28/4 - 1/5. (M. 08953/40). 18 pages of signals quoted in Appendix I. Analysis of personnel embarked, Appendix II. (totals, 128 officers, 2,094 men) in GALATEA, ARETHUSA, SHEFFIELD, SOUTHAMPTON, ULSTER PRINCE, TARTAR, SIKH, MASHONA, WALKER and WESTCOTT.
Norwegian Expeditionary Force.	Reports from C.O's H.M. Trawlers ARAB, ANGLE, and SAINT GORAN. (M. 09942/40).
R.A.C. South American Division.	War Diary 1/5 - 31/5/40 (T.S.D.5287/40). Information received of moored mines being swept up off C. Agulhas. Probability of raider mine-layer at large. Possibility of Nazi Putsch in Uruguay.
V.A. Dover.	War Diary 16/5 - 31/5. (T.S.D. 4487/40). Movements for campaign in Holland. Evacuations from Ostend. Operation F.A; Of 5 ships engaged, only 2 undamaged, VALENTINE and WHITLEY having been lost and WINCHESTER and WESTMINSTER damaged. Other casualties. Demolition plans, French ports. Conflicting orders re Boulogne, 23/5, and Calais, 24/5. Operation "Dynamo" ordered to commence by Admty. 1857/26. Over 9000 men landed at Dover alone between 2239/26 and 0830/28. One destroyer brought nearly 1000 troops. Other details, especially of casualties to ships. By 30/5 numbers embarked in destroyers had increased to as many as 1400 in each ship. General Appreication for the period 16/5 - 31/5, refers to

/ introduction ....

War Diaries, R. of P., Summaries, etc. for May 1940. (Contd.)

V.A. Dover (continued)	introduction of enemy M.T.B's evidently from Dutch ports.
D. of S.T.	Petsamo, Repatriation of Volunteers for Finnish Army. (M. 010395/40.
Operation Klaxon I and II.	Evacuation of troops from Namsos area. R. of P. (C.in C. H.F. 20/6 covering V.A.C. I.C.S., 10/5 and enclosures (M. 012225/40).
C.in C. Portsmouth.	War Diary 15/5 - 31/5. (T.S.D., 4962/40) A/S Operations, Operation Dynamo, Channel Submarine Patrols, Minelaying and Minesweeping. Loss of B.D.V. CAMBRIAN 30/5, Dutch Warships arrived (list), Convoys and Routeing, Local Defence Measures.
SEVERN	Patrol Report 29/4 - 10/5. (M.09593/40).
C.in C. Nore.	Local Defence Flotilla. R. of Operations, Dunkirk, 27/5 - 31/5. (M. 010946/40) ROYAL EAGLE, CRESTED EAGLE, and GOLDEN EAGLE under Comdr. E.C. Cordeaux R.N. (Retired).
CODRINGTON	R. of P. 10/5 - 15/5 Dutch Coast (M. 09848/40).

(1)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Destroyer Patrol

Four destroyers from Plymouth patrolled last night off the coast between Eddystone and Wolf Rock, to protect convoy leaving Dartmouth yesterday evening westwards.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Naval targets attacked last night included docks at Flushing, Dunkirk and Gravelines, docks and shipping at Bordeaux and Lorient. A direct hit on a submarine at Bordeaux is claimed, and many fires and explosions were caused,

Coastal Command

Coastal Command aircraft last night attacked targets at Lorient, Cherbourg and Bordeaux.

Mining

Mines were found today in the Bristol Channel (AA Sunk ROYAL SOVEREIGN sunk off Cardiff); in the Tyne where SS HINDPOOL was mined at a buoy early in the afternoon and the port was at once closed; In the Firth of Forth where WOLSEY exploded a mine without harm, and at Sheerness.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD attacked a submarine with unknown results this afternoon close west of the Azores. She considers that a submarine patrol exists there.

Mediterranean

Bombardment of Maksila and Sidi Barrani

Last night, TERROR, LADYBIRD and APHIS bombarded Maksila and Sidi Barrani with F.A.A. and R.A.F. cooperation.

America & West Indies

Submarine Sighted

A submarine is reported to have been sighted off the south coast of Cuba.

Town Class Destroyers Damaged

NEWMARKET, WELLS and NEWARK were damaged by mischance while manoeuvring in dock today and will have to be docked. READING RAMSEY and RIDLEY left St. Johns N.F. for U.K. 1930 G.M.T/8 but RIDLEY returned to St. John's this morning with steering defect.

Australia

A.C.N.B. today outlined their commitments and made proposals for reinforcement of the Station.

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation "Specimen".

PEGASUS sailed early this morning from Belfast, for operations with Convoy OG47.

Convoy HX92.

The ocean escort and half of convoy HX92 have been dispersed by the gale.

British Air Activity.

Coastal Command.

A Patrol was flown this forenoon to intercept the enemy long range aircraft which operates daily off the South West Coast of Ireland. *No interception was made.*

The W/T Station on Vikero Island, off Romsdalsfjord was attacked today.

Bomber Command.

Bad weather on the Continent caused operations to be considerably reduced last night. Lorient was successfully attacked.

Enemy Air Activity.

There ~~were no attacks on shipping or naval ports today, and~~ *was* practically no offensive activity, whatever, though two convoys called for fighter protection.

MOST SECRET.

10.12.1940.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Operation, 2 M.E.5.

ADVENTURE reported this operation (minelaying in the declared area South of St. George's Channel) completed shortly before midnight today.

No minelaying by enemy aircraft was detected last night.
The Tyne and Thames are open, the latter with certain precautions.

South Atlantic.

The suggestion that Dutch ships in British convoys are guiding U /Boats to attack is made by N.C.S.O. Freetown today.

Mediterranean.

REGULUS lost.

REGULUS is 3 days overdue from patrol in the Gulf of Otranto and Adriatic and must be regarded as lost.

Air attack on Valona; ship hit.

5 Blenheims attacked Valona today. One ship was hit on the stern.

Advance of the army in Egypt.

Naval units are supporting the advance of the army, off the Coast of Egypt.
Lighters are being used to ease the Transport difficulties of the army.

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

SOUTHAMPTON attacked shipping firing 7 salvoes at a Japanese ship, at Kismayu today. Results were not apparent. The shore batteries fired accurately at SOUTHAMPTON up to 24000 yards, but caused no damage.

China.

The policy of gradual withdrawal of British and Allied ships from Japanese waters is likely to be accelerated in the near future.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Coastal Command aircraft this evening attacked targets at Brest. The aircraft security ship FRIESENLAND, one of the targets had already left Brest by 11/12.

Air reconnaissance today showed 9 U-Boats in Brest.

Bomber Command

Enemy occupied ports in France and Belgium were attacked last night by a light force.

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on Shipping

Most of the attacks made today on shipping were in the Thames Estuary and S.E. of Harwich. Convoy F.S. 57 was attacked in the forenoon and again in the afternoon and three small ships SS LANARK, SAXON QUEEN and TOR were slightly damaged but continued under their own steam.

Convoy F.N. 57 was attacked twice during the afternoon, but no damage is reported.

Drifter JOHN ALFRED was attacked and damaged and was towed to Brightlingsea.

A Swedish ship was bombed but not damaged in the N.W. Approaches.

Mining

Apart from some black cylindrical objects dropped by aircraft in the Thames Approa after dark this evening, there are no r ports of enemy aircraft minelaying toda or last night.

On account of acoustic mines, the maximum number of motor ships, both o going and coasters, are to use the E coast ports.

/British.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

British Minelaying

Bomber Command aircraft continued mine-laying activities off the west coast of France last night. Swordfish of the F.A.A. laid mines this evening at Brest, under cover of the operation carried out by Coastal Command.

Operations Against Vichy French

The present Admiralty policy regarding French merchant vessels is laid down in F.O.C.N.A. 1224/5 and Admty 1133/11)

Mediterranean

Sidi Barrani was captured by our troops today. Naval units cooperated with the Army and harassed the retreat of the Italians, ILLUSTRIOUS providing fighter protection, escorted by 3rd C.S. and destroyers. F.A.A. aircraft also carried out bombing operations at Sollum and the escarpment road.

America & West Indies

German SS RHEIN has been intercepted by VAN KINSBERGEN north west of Key West. the RHEIN set herself on fire and had to be sunk by CARADOC.

C. in C., A.W.I. has made proposals for coordination of intelligence in the Jamaica area, as counter action to the highly organised enemy system.

He also reports that the situation in Trinidad and Jamaica with regard to the examination of passengers and cargo in transit is very unsatisfactory, and enemy agents and contraband are able to pass through.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Australia

A.C.N.B. has decided to release surface forces to operate against raiders on ocean trade routes. The method intended, is to escort as many ships as can be got together without imposing a long delay on shipping. The ships will be spaced at twice visibility distance apart by day and it is anticipated that these modified convoys will not be greater that 4 Or 5 ships.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Night operations on 12/13-12 were cancelled owing to weather, and for the same reason all aircraft were forced to abandon their tasks today.

Coastal Command

Hudson aircraft on patrol off Den Helder scored a direct hit on a 7,000 ton supply ship last night. Blenheim aircraft off Norway scored 2 hits on a 2000 ton merchant ship off Utyoer Light. Bordeaux was raided this evening with good results.

Enemy Air Activity

Activity last night was on a small scale, and chiefly confined to minelaying.

The raid on Frater Mine Depot on the night of 11-12 caused only slight damage to fencing.

Mining

A very large number of mines were laid from aircraft near Thames Boom last night. The Thames and Medway were closed at 0403 today.

The Humber was opened this morning.

WINDSOR, Destroyer, mined on 8/12, arrived at the Nore in tow of ST. MELLONS last night.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

Operation "Ration"

French SS AVANT-GARDE was intercepted off Cape Tresforcas this morning and taken to Gibraltar. She was alone, outside Spanish territorial waters

North Atlantic

It was reported from Tangier this morning that both the Italian submarines sailed at 0430/13.

TRIDENT is to relieve CACHALOT on the Azores Patrol.

South Atlantic

NEWTON PINE, independently for U.K., reported today that she was being gunned by a submarine in the South Atlantic in 2° 6' N 22° 0' W., about 700' S.W. of Freetown.

ENTERPRISE arrived at Montevideo this afternoon on a 48 hour visit.

Passengers and crews from the French CUBA and INDOCHINOIS were removed today after having been kept on board at Freetown for several weeks.

Mediterranean

COVENTRY Torpedoed

COVENTRY Was torpedoed by a U-Boat this evening but was able to proceed to Alexandria at 13 knots.

TERROR Bombardment

TERROR engaged in the bombardment of Bardia, was unsuccessfully attacked by an E-Boat last night.

Bardia & Tobruk Bombed

Bardia and Tobruk were attacked by the R.A.F. and F.A.A. last night.

Main Fleet

BARHAM, VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, GLOUCESTER, YORK and 12 destroyers returned to Alexandria today from operations off the Libyan Coast in support of the Army.

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies

DESPATCH arrived at Bermuda this evening on her return to the Station, from which she had been absent since September.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

For greater security from possible air attack QUEEN ELISABETH left Portsmouth this afternoon for Rosyth, via the Irish Sea, escorted by 8 destroyers.

British Air Activity

Heavy attacks were made by Bomber Command last night on ports from Dunkirk to Dieppe.

Coastal Command last night attacked Brest (heavily) and Bordeaux. Two hits and a near miss were obtained on a 7000 ton merchant ship off the Helder this evening.

Brest was attacked again this evening.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.N. 58, and a drifter and a patrol boat were attacked at various times today in the Nore area, without damage. The drifter and patrol boat drove off the enemy aircraft in flames.

Mining

Enemy minelaying aircraft were active last night, estimated number 50, but areas were identified.

Objects believed to be mines were dropped last night at the Nore.

The Humber was closed at 2307 on account of suspected minelaying.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

TERROR and the two gunboats assisted by 4 destroyers continued the bombardment of the coast of Egypt last night during an important period.

A large number of naval units have been employed in taking supplies to troops in advanced positions and in evacuating prisoners of which there are reported to be 30,000. Strong westerly winds considerably hindered the work.

Aircraft of the F.A.A. last night successfully cooperated with the Army by bombing in the Sollum area and the escarpment road south of Sollum.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep by M.T.B's.

Last night, M.T.B's carried out a sweep off Flushing and Ostend. No enemy ships were sighted.

British Air Activity

Coastal Command

Beauforts attacked submarines at Bordeaux last night, dropping heavy calibre bombs in the target area.

Routine and special patrols were on a reduced scale owing to unfavourable weather.

Bomber Command

Owing to adverse weather, operations were considerably reduced last night. A small force of heavy bombers attacked shipyards and dock areas in North Germany. Day operations were abandoned.

Enemy Air Activity

Apparent minelaying last night extended from the Thames Estuary to the Humber and Tyne areas.

Mining

17 enemy mines of various types were exploded by the weather, 10 in Falmouth Bay 5 in Penzance Bay, 2 off Fowey. Six were cut and exploded off Dover.

The Tyne-Blyth inshore channel, Great Yarmouth, Kyles of Bute, and Belfast degaussing range were closed.

ADVENTURE continued minelaying this evening in the declared area south of St. George's Channel.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Shipping

Distress Messages

To avoid doubt as to whether the cancellation of a C., R., or S message is genuine, ships are to transmit a coded message cancelling the original report about one hour after cancelling the distress message in plain language.

North Atlantic

Azores Patrol

Force H (less SHEFFIELD) is to establish a patrol to prevent any enemy attempt to capture the Azores. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and 6 destroyers left Gibraltar for this duty at 1030 today, and should arrive off the Azores p.m./16. Submarines UPHOLDER, USK and UNIQUE have been ordered to patrol in the Bay of Biscay.

Operation "Ration"

Operation "Ration" is not to be carried out until further orders.

South Atlantic

Force "Shrapnel"

C. in C., South Atlantic reports that to meet commitments for Shrapnel Force, MILFORD and DELHI must be recalled from Libreville Patrol, leaving no vessels for this patrol.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Valona and Bardia Attacked

Valona was bombed by the R.A.F. this morning and Bardia both by the R.A.F. and F.A.A. in conjunction with a bombardment by TERROR.

Tripoli Bombed

F.A.A. Swordfish from Malta attacked Tripoli last night, and scored dive bombing hits on 2 ships alongside the North Mole, others in mid-stream, and on warehouses.

Crotone Bombed

Crotone Harbour (entrance to Gulf of Taranto) was bombed (apparently for the first time) last night by 1 Wellington. All bombs were seen to burst along the waterfront.

NAIADE Sunk

The Italian S/M NAIADE was sunk at 1850 today by a destroyer of the 2nd Flotilla N.E. of Derna. 47 Officers and men were taken prisoners.

Malta Raid

Malta was raided at midday today, but no service casualties or damage were caused.

COVENTRY

COVENTRY, torpedoed last night, arrived Alexandria, and reports only slight damage, confined right forward. An Italian communique claims she was torpedoed by MEGHELLI.

MALAYA

It has been approved to send MALAYA to join Force H.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies

In view of a possible break-out by the German ORINOCO from Tampico, CARADOC has been ordered to leave Jamaica to-morrow morning for Nassau, Bahamas, via Crooked Island Passage, to arrive on the morning of 17/12.

U-Boat Campaign

WESTERN PRINCE, sailing independently from New York to Liverpool with a special cargo, was torpedoed this morning in the N.W. Approaches. Mr. Howe, Canadian Minister of Munitions, and 3 of his staff were on board, but were rescued.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

QUEEN ELIZABETH escorted by NIGERIA, CURACOA, and 4 Destroyers arrived at Rosyth at 1330 today from Portsmouth.

At 2105 tonight a single E-Boat torpedoed the Danish M.C.MONBERG of 2301 tons in convoy F.S. 60 when some 2 miles South of Smiths Knoll Light Vessel. The M.C.MONBERG subsequently sank and, though engaged at full speed by WOOLSTON, the E-Boat escaped behind a smoke screen.

Brest was attacked by our aircraft during the night 14/15 and 2 heavy Bombs were seen to fall in the Target Area. Lorient was attacked by 4 aircraft of the Coastal Command during the night and damage is believed to have been done to Submarines and the Dockyard there. Special importance is now attached to Rosyth, and the Coastal Command has ordered that all aircraft should be routed from today to avoid the defended area.

Great Yarmouth was opened to navigation at 0851 this morning, and one red Mine was detonated in the Thames Estuary at 2115 last night by LL Trawlers. ADVENTURE is complete with Mines and fuel and at 4 hours notice; and the Mining Operation B.S. 47 has been postponed for a further 24 hours.

An unknown ship was sighted by a Trawler of the Northern Patrol in 62° 32' N., 13°35' W., at 1445 today, steering S.S.E; but contact with her was lost in the heavy rain.

Two mines were dropped by aircraft between the Castle and Fort Burgoyne at Dover at about 2100 tonight, causing only very slight damage and one slight casualty.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Vichy French

French Light Cruiser — French light cruiser MILAN and four French submarines passed Gibraltar west bound at noon.

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD — The SHEFFIELD has arrived at Gibraltar from the Azores. The tanker ORANGE LEAF has sailed to join Force H.

South Atlantic

MILFORD — H.M.S.MILFORD (sloop) has been ordered by C. in C., S.A., to proceed to Freetown with despatch (see 14/12/40 force "Shrapnel") Shrapnel Force has been instructed that if opposition is encountered, the operation is to be carried through by force.

U-Boat — BRIDGEWATER while assisting ENGLISH TRADER reported a U-Boat at 0412 off Dakar which was chased for 30 minutes. Not known whether French or enemy

Mediterranean

C. in C., in WARSPITE is at Alexandria with VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, 3rd C.S. and destroyers, due to leave for Crete. BARHAM (F.O. 1st B.S.) EAGLE and 19th Destroyer Flotilla will remain at Alexandria to conduct the operation along the coast.

Naples — On the night of 14/15, Naples was bombed by the R.A.F. and hits registered on a concentration of cruisers and destroyers and on a jetty where two battleships were moored.

/SOUTHAMPTON....

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd

SOUTHAMPTON
PERTH

SOUTHAMPTON and PERTH (cruisers) have been ordered to join Mediterranean Fleet from East Indies, vice GLASGOW and SYDNEY (see Australia)

Adriatic

TETRARCH (submarine) sighted nothing while patrolling off Pelagosa Island.

Libya

Naval forces are continuing operations in support of the Army. PROTECTOR (netlayer), CHAKLA and FIONA (armed boarding vessels) and other craft are working between Alexandria and Sidi Barrani landing supplies and removing prisoners to Alexandria.

Bardia
Sollum

During the night of 14-15th Dec. Wellingtons bombed Bardia starting a very large oil fire. Blenheims bombed the barracks at Sollum.

East Indies

Assab

Supply depot at Assab was bombed by Blenheims and the barracks set on fire.

Traffic and Convoy

C. in C., reports that there are generally some 350 merchant ships on the East Indies Station. THe routes most exposed to raider attack are (a) Cape to Colombo to Achim Head (Sumatra) (b) Australia to Colombo (c) Australia to Cape. Route (a) is the densest, often carrying some 100 ships and must therefore have first call on ships available for protection. "A modified Convoy system as proposed is obviously not practicable on this route except possibly very occasionally from Colombo to Achim Head. More ships would be necessary before C. in C., could cooperate with the system on route (b) and (c).

H.S. Note. Distance from the Cape to Colombo via Mauritius is about 4400 miles. There were 7 cruisers and 6 armed merchant cruisers in East Indies Command on Dec.9. 3 of these cruisers were attached to the Red Sea Force, which absorbed a large portion of his ships, including 9 out of 12 sloops. For "Modified Convoy System" see Situation Report 11.12.40, Australia.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies-Contd.

OLE JACOB

Singapore reports that it is certain that the OLE JACOB was in company with raider on 16.11.40. (Note. OLE JACOB, Norwegian tanker 8306 tons was captured by a raider on 10.11.40 in 6° 30' N., 90° 13' E. (Colombo to Sumatra route)

Ships Leaving

The following ships are leaving the East Indies Command. The SOUTHAMPTON (cruiser) for Mediterranean; the WESTRALIA (armed merchant cruiser) for Australia; the PERTH (cruiser, "ed Sea Force) for Mediterranean. It is intended that four Hunt class destroyer shall join the Red Sea Force.

America & West Indies

Escorts

C. in C., considers three destroyers inadequate for PENNLAND and COLOMBIA and intends to attach one or two additional.

Force K.

C. in C., asks for information that Force K will act under his orders when operating against raiders in station limits.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Australia

WESTRALIA
SYDNEY

In view of increasing raider activities in Australian waters and to provide a relief for the GLASGOW damaged in Mediterranean the following redisposition has been approved by the Admiralty.

(a) WESTRALIA (armed merchant cruiser) to return to Australia (from East Indies)

(b) SOUTHAMPTON (cruiser) to join Mediterranean Fleet (from East Indies)

(c) SYDNEY (cruiser) to return to Australia (from Mediterranean)

(d) PERTH (cruiser) to join Mediterranean Fleet (from Red Sea Force)

The Australian Commonwealth Naval Board have been asked to agree to four Bathurst minesweepers being allocated to Mediterranean

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

F.O.I.C. Humber considers that the Acoustic Mining situation in the Humber Approach Channels renders it inadvisable for Destroyers to proceed in and out for working up practices if other facilities are available.

Operation P.V.I. to locate and destroy E-Boats minelaying in the swept channel off Harwich was carried out between 2030 and 2230 tonight to practice the Aircraft concerned and the intercommunication required.

Submarines at Lorient and Bordeaux were attacked last night by our Aircraft, and a Patrol from Dyce to Flamborough and return was flown during the forenoon.

Plymouth was attacked during last night by aircraft which dropped 4 H.E. Bombs in the sound and a few incendiaries in the Town; and at 1150 today H.M.Drifter UBERITY had a machine-gun action with one enemy aircraft off Lowestoft in which 4 men were wounded, 2 dangerously, and the aircraft reported herself damaged.

There is evidence that enemy traffic along the Norwegian Coast is increasing in importance, and it is proposed to lay a Minefield to impede it between Egersund and Point Jaederens. Aircraft minelaying continues; and during a routine sweep at Dover today one Mine was found and 4 explosive cutters.

The French Destroyer BRANLEBAS left Dartmouth as escort to a west-bound Convoy 1800/13 with orders to return to Dartmouth by 1000/15. She has not since been heard of and must now be presumed lost, probably by heavy weather.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

OREGON has been ordered to call at Gibraltar to repatriate 88 French merchant seamen and officers anxious to return to unoccupied France. The French Admiralty has approved on condition that she transports no merchandise.

Consul, Las Palmas, reports that the French CAPITAINE SAINT MARTIN arrived there on Monday from Casablanca.

North Atlantic

Azores Patrol

BERWICK has been ordered to leave Gibraltar tomorrow to patrol off the Azores.

After CIRCASSIA leaves patrol in Area G.3. tomorrow, Admiralty have notified F.O.C.N.P. that it will be unnecessary to maintain an A.M.C. on patrol in the vicinity of the Azores, and A.M.C's returning to Western Patrol can therefore be employed in the more direct trade routes.

ASPHODEL and CALENDULA (corvettes) on passage from Londonderry to Freetown, left Ponta Delgada this afternoon. C.O., ASPHODEL considers it impracticable to oil a destroyer off the Azores in winter months.

RESOLUTION and VINDICTIVE, with destroyer escort, arrived at Gibraltar this morning from Freetown.

A report having been received from Consul Malaga, that silver was to be transhipped last night from a pilot boat to an Italian warship off that port VELOX (destroyer) and aircraft were sent to investigate. VELOX returned with nothing to report, but the London flying boat saw a large swirl beside the pilot boat which might have been a submarine.

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic-Contd.

Tangier

Spanish infantry, estimated at between 3,000 and 4,000 are arriving at Tangier to replace Moorish troops transferred to Larache and Melusa.

Bordeaux-Lisbon Convoy

Consul-General, Lisbon, learns that the Germans are organising in Bordeaux a large convoy to be escorted to Lisbon within territorial waters.

South Atlantic

Neutrality Zone

Until further orders no merchant ship is to be stopped within the American neutrality zone without definite instructions This includes all French Ships.

HATIA

A boat has been found of the British HATIA, which made a raider report on 22/10 from latitude just north of the Equator on her way to Buenos Aires.

Transport of Aircraft

FURIOUS has been informed by D.N.A.D. that 27 of the Hurricane aircraft transported on her last trip were in action by December 12. She landed 33 Hurricanes at Takoradi on November 29.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Dodecanese.

C.in C. Medit. and C.in C. Mid East have sent a joint appreciation on this subject.

Fleet.

The Fleet (1st Division 1st B.S., ILLUSTRIOUS, 3 Cruiser Squadron and destroyers) has left Alexandria to assist the Greek operations.

Bardia.

During the night of 15-16 Dec., 36 bombers carried out an attack on Bardia, in order to force the enemy to evacuate the town. Hits were made on barracks and stores, starting large fires.

Sollum

Sollum and Fort Capuzzo have

Italian U-boat.

The Italian submarine sunk by destroyers on 14/1850 in 32°03'N. 25°36'E., about 30 miles N. of Sidi Barrani was the NIADE. [redacted]. Five officers, 10 petty officers and 32 men were taken prisoner.

East Indies.

Troop Convoy.

Convoy W.S.4 B (10 transports) escorted by DEVONSHIRE and SHROPSHIRE left Durban for Suez this morning.

Distress Signal.

A "Q" distress signal was intercepted this afternoon by s.s. SHILLONG, then S.E. of Maldive Islands, but was broken off incomplete without position or name of transmitting ship. C.in C., East Indies, ordered HOBART and CAPETOWN to the vicinity, and RANCHI, which arrives Mahe, Seychelles, to refuel within the next 12 hours, to proceed afterwards eastward along the trade route. WESTRALIA is to R.V. with oiler APPLELEAF early on 18/12 to escort her to the Maldive Islands.

China.

Air Mission.

Air Ministry is unable to agree to the despatch of an air mission to the Chinese Government, having neither personnel nor aircraft to spare.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

"Town" Destroyers. The ex-American destroyers RIPLEY and ROXBOROUGH left St. John's N.F. this afternoon for U.K.
ROYAL SOVEREIGN left Halifax today to cover H.X. and S.C. convoys.

American Neutral Zone. C.in C., America and West Indies, has ordered that until further notice no neutral ship is to be stopped within American neutral zone waters as defined by the Declaration of Panama, 1939, except upon express orders from the Admiralty or himself. This includes French ships. C.O's are not to be influenced by the zone limits when investigating ships flying neutral colours suspected of being disguised enemy ships.

Australia.

Minesweepers for Med'n. Australia Commonwealth Naval Board has agreed to the Admiralty suggestion to release certain of the new BATHURST class minesweepers for service in the Mediterranean.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

U-Boat Campaign.

Duel in S. Atlantic.

S.S. NEWTON PINE reported this evening that when in the vicinity of Freetown on 13/12 she was attacked by torpedo, which was avoided, and then had a gunnery duel with the U-boat for half an hour.
She had no casualties or damage and estimates that the submarine was damaged.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Force K.

Force K - FORMIDABLE (aircraft carrier) NORFOLK (cruiser) and four destroyers - is to sail from Scapa to rendezvous to the westward with Convoy W.S. 5 A.

M.T.B. Sweep

Weather permitting, Motor torpedo boats are to operate between Ostend and Hook of Holland. Any vessel met east of 2° 15' E may be attacked without challenge.

British Air Activity

L'Orient
Wilhelmshaven
Bordeaux

Air attacks to be made night of 16/17 on Wilhelmshaven, and on L'Orient and Bordeaux.

Enemy Air Activity

SS. MENTOR

Greek SS MENTOR, 3050 tons, has been attacked in 52° 51' N., 14° 17' W. (Channel Approach)

Mining

Thames & Medway

Five small merchant vessels have been sunk by mines in Thames off Southend. Thames and Medway have been closed.

ACHERON

ACHERON (destroyer) has been sunk at 0640 by an explosion off the Needles (Isle of Wight) while carrying out trials.

Stadlandet (Norway)

SUNFISH (submarine) states that during her patrol (1/12- 7/12) there were no indications of mines off Stadlandet.

Minelaying

ADVENTURE is leaving Milford Haven to lay mines. Operation ZME 7.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Shipping and Convoys

H.X. 93. — H.X. 93 (Halifax homeward) is entering North Channel at 1630.

E.N. 42. — E.N. 42. (East Coast to West, North about) left Methil (Forth) at 10 p.m.- 7 ships with escort of 1 destroyer, 1 anti-aircraft ship, 1 A/S yacht, 2 armed trawlers.

Motor vessels, six, left the Needles for Dartmouth, escorted by two A/S Trawlers.

Foreign Stations.

Vichy French

Traffic. Dakar — A regular steam boat service has been established between Marseilles and Dakar.

Gibraltar — French sloop passed Giblaltar escorting ship West to East and returned escorting three ships East to West.

Mediterranean

Operation M.C. 2. — It has been decided that Convoy M.G. 1. will be run to Gibraltar. The MALAYA is to accompany it to join Force H (see North Atlantic)

Operation M.C. 3. — The C. in C., (WARSPITE flag) 1st Division 1st Battle Squadron, H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS, 3rd Cruiser Squadron (GLOUCESTER flag) and destroyers, are due to leave Alexandria Dec. 16th to meet 7th C.S. (ORION flag) to carry out operation M.C. 3. on night of 18/19th as follows (a) 7th C.S. to raid into Straits of Otranto as far as line Bari- Durazzo (by battleships to bombard Valona)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Force H.

Force H (RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and 6 destroyers) has been ordered to return to Gibraltar (Note- Force H left Gibraltar on 14/12 to patrol off the Azores)

BERWICK (cruiser) has left Gibraltar for Azores patrol.

Submarines

The submarines UPHOLDER, USK and UNIQUE ordered on 14/12/40 to patrol in Bay of Biscay have been ordered to continue their passage to Gibraltar.

ORANGELEAF

The tanker ORANGELEAF (on her was to join Force H.) has been ordered to return to Gibraltar. The VELOX (destroyer) is to meet and escort her.

South Atlantic

NEPTUNE

NEPTUNE (flag of F.O.C. Force H) has arrived at Freetown

French Foreign Legion

The C. in C., South Atlantic has asked for confirmation of arrangements to send French Legion to Freetown for transhipment and convoy.

U-Boat Attack on SS NEWTON PINE

The British SS NEWTON PINE reports being attacked by U-Boat on Dec 13/2200 G.M.T. in 8° 16' N., 15° 25' W. Torpedo was avoided and a gunfire action lasting 30 minutes followed. Master considers the submarine was damaged.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Raider

There is no further indication of raider since SS SHILLONG's distress signal off the Maldives on Dec. 16. The Cruisers Hobart and Capetown are off the Maldives giving cover to shipping. The cruiser DAUNTLESS is to patrol West of Actun Head (Sumatra)

America & West Indies

Merchant Vessels Armament

Allied ships (Norwegian and Greek) are reluctant to sail without armament. C. in C., requests early information as to shipment of Hotchkiss machine guns to Bermuda.

Australia

Raider
TRIASTER
VINNI
TRIONA

Nothing further has been heard of the ships TRIASTER, VINNI and TRIONA which were due at Nauru, (Gilbert Islands, British Mandate) on Dec. 7th and 8th and were supposed to have been captured by the raider which attacked Nauru on Dec 8th.

U-Boat Campaign

ROTORUA

With regard to the sinking of British SS ROTORUA, 10890 tons, in convoy H.X. 92 (Halifax homeward) on Dec 11th at 1315 in 58° 56' N., 11° 8' W., the senior officer of escort in VETERAN (destroyer) states that the ROTORUA was 125 miles ahead of her expected position and that the local escort was not aware of this till the report came in of her being torpedoed. The signalmen rescued from ROTORUA state that all signals from Commodore of Convoy were passed to British SS CARDITA, that the signal giving a rendezvous for local escort was passed on Dec 11 at 0400 and 0800. Neither of these signals reached the escort.

MOST SECRET

17.12.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

U-Boat Campaign-Contd.

It is estimated that some 15 U-Boats are at sea. viz 3 German and 7 Italian The areas of operation are approximately as follows:-

Azores & Madeira	- German	2 Italian
Cape Verde	2 (No further report)	
West of Spain (bound for Azores)		1 or 2
British Isles West & Northwest	3	4
Bay, arriving L'Orient	1	
Shetlands (Outward)	1	
North (60°N 20°W)	1	
	8	7 or 8

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

C. in C., H.F. in NELSON, with HOOD, REPULSE 5 cruisers and 10 destroyers left Scapa at 1815 this evening to carry out tactical Exercises S.W. of the Faroe Islands.

At 0330 this morning M.T.B's 29, 31 and 32 on patrol off the Belgian coast sighted a M/V in ballast of from 6000 to 7000 tons one mile from Nieuwe Sluis. M.T.B's 29 and 32 fired one torpedo each; both torpedoes hit; and the M/V was seen to sink. M.T.B. 31 also fired one torpedo at a Guard ship of Trawler type further inshore; an explosion was heard; and the Guard ship ceased to fire. No casualties or damage occurred to any of the M.T.B's.

Two British M/V's were attacked by enemy aircraft at 0847 and 0900 this morning respectively in the Irish Sea about 30 miles S.W. of the Isle of Man; and an aircraft of unknown nationality was reported to be flying south-westwards over County Cork at about the same time.

In addition to the Mines which sank 7 vessels yesterday in the Sheerness-Southend area, C. in C., Nore reports today that a number of spontaneous explosions occurred in the same area yesterday, one explosion being sometimes followed immediately by another. The port of Belfast was closed this morning at 0442 on account of suspected minelaying by aircraft, but was re-opened at 1314 for the use of the swept channel only. The M/S Trawler REFUNDO was sunk off Harwich by a small Ground Mine at 1355 this afternoon; and a Mine was exploded just before midnight about 4 miles 110° from Spurn Point Lighthouse.

The French, but British-manned, Destroyer MISTRAL arrived at Dartmouth this evening with 3 survivors from the BRAMLEBAS; which from the survivors' accounts, appears to have broken in half at about 1910 on Saturday evening near the Lands End, though N.O.I.C. Dartmouth considers it more likely that the loss occurred off the Lizard.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Vichy French

French Convoy

French COMMANDANT DELAGE (M/S sloop) passed Gibraltar eastbound this morning escorting the French merchant ships VENDEMIAIRE and LORRAINE.

North Atlantic

Submarines

Submarines UPHOLDER, UNIQUE and USK were ordered to leave their patrols in the Bay of Biscay this evening for Gibraltar and will be considered as entering the North Atlantic Command from 0001/21.

South Atlantic

Libreville Report

Until DRAGON and DUNEDIN become available, Admiralty agree that the Duala Patrol must be vacated temporarily owing to other commitments.

Raider

The British DUQUESA, 8651 tons, Montevideo to Freetown and U.K., reported at 1400Z that she was being shelled by an enemy raider about 700 miles S.W. of Freetown. Her signal, although incompletely received, indicated that the raider was the ADMIRAL SCHEER. S.O., Force M., with NEPTUNE and DORSETSHIRE, was ordered to 08° N., 21° W to cover trade routes to north and north eastward, and left Freetown at 1700. These 2 cruisers have been placed at the disposal of C. in C., S.A., for raider hunting until further orders. HERMES and DRAGON were ordered to St. Helena with despatch to fuel, and ENTERPRISE to re-join R.A., South America Division in 28° S., 43° W.,

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Adriatic Sweep

V.A.L.F. in ORION with 3 destroyers made a sweep into the Adriatic as far as the line Bari- Durazzo this evening but sighted nothing. C. in C., Mediterranean, proceeded up the Straits of Otranto in support.

Submarines Lost

Submarines NARVAL (French) and TRITON are 50 and 30 hours overdue respectively and must be considered lost. NARVAL left Malta 2/12 to patrol westward of Lampedusa and TRITON on 28/11 for patrol in the Southern Adriatic.

TRUANT Attacks

S/M TRUANT reports on the night of 13-14/12 she sank certainly one and possibly two laden merchant vessels off Spartivento, escorted by a sloop. On the night of 15-16/12, she sank a large southbound tanker off Colonne, accompanied by the Italian CARALIS, which escaped.

U-Boat Campaign

WORCESTER (A.M.C.) reports that about 8 rounds were fired at her in moonlight at 0650 this morning by an enemy vessel, believed to be a U-Boat, about 360 miles west of Blacksod Bay. There were no hits.

MOST SECRET

19.12.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

C. in C., Nore estimates that as a result of the recent heavy minelaying in the Thames Estuary about 12 single Explosions of an apparently spontaneous character occurred on the 17th in the Sheerness-Southend area, in some cases with no ships near them; and one further Mine was detonated in this area by S.A. gear today. Today also the British Tanker ARINIA was mined and sunk 2 to 3 cables West of the Nore Lightship and the Dutch Schuyt TWEE GEBROEDERS close to N. 2 Yantlet Buoy.

Submarines at Lorient, Brest and Bordeaux were attacked last night by our Bombers and No 22 Squadron attacked TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven.

The Swedish ISOLDA of 261 tons was bombed and sunk off the South Wexford coast this morning near the Barrels Light Vessel and inside Irish territorial waters, six of her crew being killed

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Troop Convoy

Convoy W.S. 5 A, 19 transports with troops and supplies for the Middle East, left Liverpool and the Clyde today, escorted by the cruiser BONAVENTURE aircraft carrier ARGUS 7 destroyers, 1 sloop and 4 corvettes. BONAVENTURE and ARGUS will leave the convoy after BERWICK joins from Gibraltar.

Vichy French

French Admiralty has advised that 3 more French submarines escorted by 1 destroyer will pass Gibraltar westward on 22/12 to relieve submarines now in Atlantic.

F.O.C., North Atlantic states in reply to an Admiralty inquiry that he had not sufficient destroyers to carry out Operation "Ration" (interception of ships) whilst Force H is away from Gibraltar. (see Admty. to F.O.C.N.A., 1255/13 and 1440/13 for policy re interception of merchant vessels see F.O.C. North Atlantic, 1224/5/12 and Admty. reply 1133/11/12) F.O.C.N.A. suggests use of ships returning from Azores patrol

North Atlantic

Force H

Force H. RENOWN (battlecruiser) ARK ROYAL (cruiser) and destroyers FAULKNOR, FURY FORESTER, DUNCAN, ISIS and ENCOUNTER have arrived at Gibraltar. (Note: recalled from Azores patrol)

Azores

Now that BERWICK (cruiser) has been withdrawn from Azores Patrol, DERBYSHIRE (A.M.C. is to be moved to areas F.2., G.2., H.2. CIRCASSIA (A.M.C.) is to be sailed for areas Q.2., R.3., and S.3., when ready.

A conference has been held at Gibraltar to discuss additional measures for the security of the naval harbour at Gibraltar, and proposals including indicator nets, loops, and loop mines outside the entrances have been forwarded by F.O.C.N.A., for consideration.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Raider

FORMIDABLE (aircraft carrier) and NORFOLK are to proceed westward of the Azores to carry out a sweep for the German pocket battleship en route to Freetown. DORSETSHIRE will probably join Force K in lieu of Berwick.

HERMES and Force L, including PRETORIA CASTLE, are to search on the western edge of the Cape- U.K. route.

NEPTUNE and DORSETSHIRE (cruisers) are to search areas on the South America- St. Vincent and Freetown route.

There are indications of an enemy auxiliary North West of Ascension on 18/12, which might have been in 1° N., 27° W. possibly on way to meet warship Raider.

CUMBERLAND
NEWCASTLE
ENTERPRISE

R.A.South American Division in CUMBERLAND (cruiser) has ordered NEWCASTLE (cruiser) to pick up oiler and fuel then leaving oiler to fuel ENTERPRISE, to join him in South Atlantic.

Mines

Masters of merchant ships have been warned of the danger of mines again being laid off Cape Agulhas (S. Africa, Cape) and directed accordingly.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Operations	The Mediterranean fleet carried out a sweep into the Adriatic on the night of 18-19/12. The 7th C.S. swept up as far as a line Bari-Durazzo. The battleships bombarded the port of Valona. Enemy batteries did not open fire till after withdrawal had begun. No enemy warships or merchant ships were found at sea. (See Operation M.C. 3. Situation Report 17/12/40)
NARVAL	C. in C., reports that all books held by Free French submarine NARVAL (overdue and considered lost) must be considered comprimised. Fresh orders have therefore been issued to submarines UPRIGHT and REGENT. OTUS has been ordered back to Alexandria.
Destroyers	"K" class destroyers from the Red Sea are to relieve NUBIAN and MOHAWK (Tribal class) in 1941, when the latter will rejoin the Home Fleet, in which the rest of the Tribals are serving.
Malta Raid	Malta was raided by 2 aircraft between 2225 and 2255 last night, the first dropping 6 bombs into the sea off Grand Harbour and the second 4 bombs inthe sea and 2 others on land near Tigne. The latter was shot down by a Hurricane.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Raider. Cover to Shipping.

The CARTHAGE (A.M.C. is to leave Durban on 21/12 to give cover to shipping on Durban to Madagascar route.

The DAUNTLESS (cruiser) is to proceed to Penang.

The CAPETOWN (cruiser) is to proceed due West from Addu Atoll (Maldive Is.) to give cover to shipping. The oiler APPLE LEAF is to leave Addu Atoll as arranged by CAPETOWN.

China

Aerodromes, Far East

C. in C., Far East is not satisfied with the scale of protection to aerodromes.

Australia & New Zealand

Convoy U.S. 8.

Convoy U.S. 8 two ships escorted by ACHILLES (cruiser) left Wellington for Sydney.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Ships Attacked

ANICUS — British SS, 3660 tons, torpedoed at 1814/19 in 54° 10' N., 15° 50' W., WESTCOTE (destroyer) was sent to investigate by C. in C., W.A., at 1930/19.

Tug SEAMAN sent from Greenock at 2104/19

There are some 12 U-Boats at sea of which some 10 are to westward as follows:-

Azores and Madeira	- German	1 Italian
Cape Verde	1 (a)	
North West & West	2 (a)	4
	3	
North of 60° N.	1	

(a) Indications vague or doubtful.

MOST SECRET

20.12.1940
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

The Home Fleet returned to Scapa at 0930 this morning from a Practice Cruise to the westward.

It has been decided that a second submarine is to accompany homeward-bound H.X.Convoys in future, and SEAWOLF is to be sailed for Halifax for this duty as soon as possible.

Two more TOWN class Destroyers are to be manned by Norwegians who will take them over during January; and, pending the finding of a Board of Inquiry into the loss of BRANLEBAS, C. in C., W.A., recommends that Ships of her class should not be allowed to proceed to sea.

An unidentified Aircraft was plotted at 1242 today about 25 miles West of Hoy steering East. The Aircraft maintained this course along the North shore of Pentland Firth where it was sighted for an instant by a section of our Fighters on patrol, and then disappeared to the eastward of Sandwick in South Ronaldsay. At 1907 another Enemy Aircraft flew low over the Shipwash; and at about 2100 tonight the L.M.S. Mail Steamer HIBERNIA was attacked by an aircraft while entering Kingston Harbour and thus well inside Irish territorial waters. A German seaplane flew yesterday over the rooftops of Roeslare.

In the Sheerness area, the Swashway is not to be used by shipping until further orders, though a swept channel 3 cables wide from a Medway Channel Buoy to No 1 Yantlet Buoy may be used. Sweeping was carried out during the day in the Dover area, off Harwich, and ahead of convoy W.N. 55. from Kinnaird Head to Cruden Bay.

/C. in C.,.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands-Contd.

C. in C., Nore reports that the S.A. gear cannot be considered satisfactory until it is able to detonate Acoustic Mines at a greater distance from the sweeper than is now possible.

VETERAN and VERITY were in collision last night. Both were anchored this morning off Moville. VERITY holed and her engine-room flooded and VETERAN with her stern slightly damaged, and both reported unfit for sea.

Shipping

Convoys

It is proposed to amend the cycle of convoys to provide for 2 H.X. convoys. 1 S.C. convoy, 1 S.L. convoy and 1 H.G. convoy and 3 O.B. convoys, 1 O.B. (S) convoy, and 1 O.G. convoy, sailing every 10 days. The 2 H.X. convoys would sail alternately at 4 and 6 day intervals.

Operations Against Vichy French

The C.O. of KINGSTON TOPAZ (armed boarding vessel) reports that he closed the French SS COMPIEGNE when she left Lisbon to test the reaction of the French destroyer BRESTOIS, who was cruising in the vicinity. When the latter realised what was happening he bore down on KINGSTON TOPAZ with all guns cleared away.
Note- this refers to question of interception of French ships.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Fuelling at Sea — Senior Officer Force H reports that he had just reached position N.E. of Azores when recalled. This area is unsuitable for oiling at sea owing to long heavy swell. Area S. of St. Miguel reported by SHEFFIELD 4 days out of five, unsuitable.

UPHOLDER, UGK, UNIQUE — Three submarines are on way to Gibraltar.

Convoy W.S. 5 A — Troop Convoy W.S. 5 A fast, of 5 ships has sailed.

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE — CARNARVON CASTLE arrived at Capetown today after her action with a German raider on 5/12.

TRIBESMAN — British SS TRIBESMAN 6242 tons due at Durban from U.K. 15/12 is overdue (see East Indies, SS LORNATON)

Mediterranean

MALAYA — MALAYA, with 3 destroyers, 1 A/A ship and 2 troopships arrived Malta 0230 and sailed p.m. to rendezvous with Force H (RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 6 destroyers) off Galita Is. (coast of Tunis)

Force H. — RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 6 destroyers left Gibraltar 0930/20.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

LORNASTON — British SS LORNASTON, 4934 tons, due at Durban 16/12, from Fremantle, is overdue (see South Atlantic, SS TRIBESMAN)

Convoy M.E. 4 B — 10 troop transports for Middle East escorted by SHROPSHIRE and DEVONSHIRE, left Durban on 0900/16.

Patrols — CERES (cruiser) is leaving Mombasa to patrol off Kismayu (Ital. Somaliland) and to rendezvous with COLOMBO (cruiser) which is to proceed to Mombasa.

China

Protection of Trade — C. in C., states that present resources are so limited that he can do little more than provide intermittent cover for trade on Achin Head (Sumatra) area.

German Merchant Ships

REGENSBURG — REGENSBURG, 8068 tons, which had been at Yokohama since war began, left there this afternoon.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

It is under consideration that the A.M.C's employed on the Northern Patrol should be based on Halifax, making regular trips of 30 days between Halifax and Reykjavik and return of which 22 days would be spent in effective service. In this way the ships would not enter the U-Boat zone at any time during their passage, they would be free from Air attack in harbour and at sea, and congestion at the Clyde would be relieved.

Submarines at Bordeaux, the Power Station Naval Dockyard and Shipping in Brest, and the TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven were attacked last night by our Bombers, and all the routine patrols except Patrol FAIR were flown by our aircraft today. A single Enemy aircraft dropped one bomb on Fair Island at 0920 this morning without causing any damage, and at 0930 a second single aircraft approached Scapa Flow from the Eastward but was driven off by our Fighters before actually reaching the Flow. During last nights Air Raid on Liverpool it is now reported that considerable damage was done to dock sheds, at least 12 discharging berths in the North Liverpool Docks having been made useless, the frontage of the Melins Depot building seriously injured and its offices rendered unusable. There was however only very slight damage to the Birkenhead Docks and none to the South Docks at Liverpool. Six M/V's were damaged, and the AUSTRALIA in Brocklebank Graving Dock was undamaged though near-missed by some 6 feet only.

Convoy AGENT was shadowed for some time just before noon close to the Nore Light Vessel, but was not attacked; and between 1745 and 1805 this evening several H.E. Bombs were dropped on and near Harwich causing some damage to property in the town.

C. in C., Nore reports that of the Mines dropped in the Medway-Thames area during the night 12/13 when 29 were seen to drop and more were doubtless dropped unobserved a total of 40 are now accounted for, 9 having sunk or damaged one ship each, 6 acoustic and 3 magnetic having been swept, and 22 having exploded spontaneously.

/2 further...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

2 further Mines were detonated in this area today by sweepers and 2 tugs and 1 Barge were mines and sunk there. Trials are to be made, if technically possible, of U.P. weapons mounted in surface vessels to deal with enemy minelaying aircraft. Flares and Fireballs from Enemy aircraft continued to be seen at intervals last night in the Thames Estuary and Harwich areas.

A report that the Kiel Canal is temporarily blocked appears to be supported by the fact that about 20 M/V's were seen by our aircraft at anchor without lights 1 ½ miles West of Kiel Lightship at at 0521 today.

Shipping

Convoy T.C. 8.

11 destroyers have been detailed by C. in C., Western Approaches to meet Convoy T.C. 8. (PASTEUR, PENNLAND and CAPETOWN CASTLE, with 7,000 troops for U.K.) in 57° N 22° W., at 1300/22 and escort to the Clyde in 2 portions. The convoy left Halifax on 16/12. The transports will be prepared for W.S. 5 B, sailing in the New Year.

North Atlantic

BERWICK left Gibraltar at 1600/21 to meet Troop Convoy W.S. 5 A which left the U.K on 18/12. She will R.V. with 15th C.S on the morning of the 24th.

The German M.V. HEINRICH ARP left Ferrol at midnight last night.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

An enemy raider is estimated to be within 10 miles either side of a line joining 10° 30' S., 13° 40' W., and 12° S., 13° 20' W HERMES, DRAGON and PRETORIA CASTLE are in the vicinity. An alternate appreciation puts the raider in vicinity of 18° S., 13° W., or (?) 29° S., 11° W.

Force K is to cover an area west of the traffic route between the U.K. and South Africa through which a raider might approach to attack trade.

CARNARVON CASTLE arrived at Capetown yesterday for repairs, after her raider action. Alternate proposals have been submitted for permanent or temporary repairs which would take 4½ months or 3½ weeks respectively.

Mediterranean

10 F.A.A. Swordfish attacked Tripoli Harbour last night, 6 carrying "cucumbers" and the other 4 22 bombs of 250 lbs and 14 incendiaries. The former were all "planted" 4 south of the main channel and 2 definitely in the channel. Godd results were obtained from the bombs. All the aircraft returned untouched, despite heavy and accurate A/A fire.

9 R.A.F. Wellingtons raided Castel Benito aerodrome last night. Others bombed the inner mole of the harbour at Benghazi Alexandria was raided by 1 aircraft early this morning, but all bombs fell in the sea.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

COLOMBO reports no shipping at Mogadishu (Italian Somaliland)

American & West Indies

In view of D.F. reports of an enemy surface vessel, VOLTAIRE has been ordered to keep as far westward as possible without delaying her junction with convoy H.X. 98 and CARADOC is to search from Bermuda towards B.H.X. junction in 44.55 N 51.55 W.

China

The German REGENSBURG left Yokohama yesterday afternoon.

German Merchant Ships

HEINRICH ARP, which had been at Ferrol since 1/9/1939 left at midnight last night for an unknown destination.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

In view of the recent heavy minelaying in the Yantlet Channel of the Thames Estuary special vessels mounting naval U.P. weapons are being sited in that area; and it has now been agreed with the Air Ministry that hostile minelaying A/C should in future be engaged by A/A Defences including Searchlights whenever there is a reasonable chance of success and even though the Searchlights so used may disclose local objectives, to the enemy.

Small forces of our heavy bombers attacked Lorient, Brest and Bordeaux last night causing in all cases fires in the Dock areas, and in one case, severe damage to a jetty; and mining operations off one of Germany's main Ports were also sucessfully completed by our aircraft during the night.

A heavy air-attack coming chiefly from Dieppe and the Channel Islands was concentrated tonight on Liverpool - Manchester area; and it is reported today by F.O.I.C. Liverpool that the Naval Victualling Depot in Melias Buildings, Liverpool, was entirely destroyed by fire and H.E. Bombs during last night's air-raid together, it is feared, with all its stores and records, as well as the Sub-Depot at Preston. Some damage was also caused last night to FORESIGHT during the same raid; and no destroyer or sloop escorts can be sailed from Liverpool until the damaged Hydraulic pressure in the Docks has been restored. An H.E. Bomb fell at 1950 today in the Camber at Portsmouth, sinking 3 boats, as well as some Incendiary bombs in VERNON and many in the Town; but no naval casualties were caused. All our East Coast Convoys were reported by enemy aircraft today, but no convoy was attacked. An enemy A/C passed over the Firth of Forth at 1405 today and, owing to some misapprehension of her character, was not engaged.

Considerable enemy air activity was observed in the Thames Estuary last night and at 1133 today a Mine exploded close to GARTH off Sheerness causing some damage to her engines. At 1526 the British Tanker ELAX was mined, but not sunk, off No.10 buoy at Liverpool; a Tug was mined and sunk at 1916 off the Canada Dock there; and at 2320 the port of Liverpool was closed.

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Raider Hunt.

R.A. South American Division hopes to concentrate about 24/12 in South Rio area. Failing further information he will remain there until about 26/12 and then gradually move south to the Plate.

DUQUESA, 8651 tons, which reported she was being shelled by a raider on 18/12 has not arrived at Freetown. She was due on 19/12. from Montevidio.

Mediterranean.

HYPERION. Mined.

The destroyer HYPERION was mined and sank at 0853 this morning 25 miles W.N.W. of Pantellaria. Only 3 Mediterranean destroyers will therefore be available for S.O.Force H for Operation "Excess". Including CAMERON (feared a total loss after an air raid on Portsmouth on 5/12) this makes a total of 40 destroyers lost since war began.

America and West Indies.

Convoy Escorts.

C.N.S. Canada, has been asked if any further escorts can be provided for shipping in the N.W. Approaches during the lean period of the next two months, after which our resources will increase considerably.

MOST SECRET.

BAR DIARY.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

PRINCE ROBERT (Canadian A.M.C.) is to visit Valparaiso for 24 hours on 25/12 and afterwards resume patrol off Talcahuano.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

The decision to route Trade Convoys further North in the N.W. Approaches has necessitated the provision of more Escort Ships; and the first five N- Class Destroyers, which it had been proposed to send to the Mediterranean, are accordingly to remain in home waters for the present, joining C. in C., W.A., when worked up.

In view of a possible attempt by the enemy to effect the passage of Raiders through the Iceland-Faroes passage, B.C.1. in HOOD with EDINBURGH and 4 Destroyers is to sail at 1600 tomorrow to patrol to the Eastward of that passage.

One of the E-Boats which attacked the Dutch STAD MAASTRICHT in Convoy F.N. 66 late tonight off Yarmouth was engaged at 2210 by VERDUN and is believed by her to have been sunk or badly damaged. WESTMINSTER reports slight superficial damage and 5 wounded, 3 seriously, in this action; and the STAD MAASTRICHT, though torpedoed, is still afloat.

British Air Activity

Shipping and Barges at Flushing, Dunkirk and Calais were attacked tonight by our Bombers; and a convoy of 5 ships 15 miles from Bremerhaven was also attacked. In our Air Patrol areas, except that of Plymouth, Hampden Patrols are now cancelled and Fighter Night Patrols substituted. On suitable nights up to 20 single-engined Fighters are kept over these Areas, while Guns are silenced and Searchlights doused.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.12.1940
Monday

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Six long-distance Fokke Wulf Bombers are reported to have left Bordeaux at 1100 today, possibly to attack Convoy W.S. 5 A; and considerable Enemy aircraft activity continues near and over Rosslare. At 1848 today the north wall of the Torpedo Depot at Portsmouth was badly damaged by H.E. Bombs and 40 casualties were caused; but no one is reported killed and most of the casualties were slight.

Mining

At Liverpool WARWICK was damaged by a Mine about one mile 100° from the Bar Light Vessel at 2111 to-night, but by 2357 had been successfully beached in Tranmere Bay with her engine and boiler rooms flooded; and the M/V ATLANTIC COAST was slightly damaged by a near Mine this afternoon. Of the mines recently dropped off Liverpool 14 have no been accounted for; of which 3 were apparently fired by the Isle of Man Steamer VICTORIA without damage to herself, 3 were exploded by sweepers, 1 by an examination vessel, and most of the remainder self detonated. The Port, which had been re-opened at 1000 today, was closed again at 1800; and F.O.I.C. Liverpool has recommended today the extinction of certain Navigation Lights and the issue of precautionary navigational instructions.

In the Sheerness area, also, it has been ordered that, so far as is tactically possible, the positions of craft which may act as sea marks for minelaying aircraft should be constantly changed.

MOST SECRET.

23.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

There is no further news of the raider reported on 21/12. HERMES, when she has searched the area ordered by C.in C. in his 0959/21, is to operate on the western limits of the trade route S.E. of St. Helena until necessary to return to St. Helena to fuel.

N.C.S.O. Duala reports that Buenos Aires broadcast on the night of 20.21/12 that the French Foreign Legion would be leaving Duala, Cameroons, on 25/12, would pick up convoy at Freetown, and would then proceed to Port Sudan. The Free French authorities attribute the leakage to military carelessness.

Mediterranean.

C.in C. Mediterranean, has again drawn attention to inadequate shore -based air reconnaissance, owing to lack of aircraft. Important operations of passing MALAYA and 3 M.T. ships to the Western Mediterranean have been carried out without any idea of the whereabouts of main Italian units.

East Indies.

LEANDER will from Force R for Convoy B.N.12. which she will continue to escort west of 55° E., as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.12.40.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

The ex-American destroyers SALISBURY, RICHMOND and NEWPORT left St. John's N.F. for the United Kingdom this afternoon.

MOST SECRET

24.12.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

As proposed yesterday by C. in C., H.F., B.C. 1. in HOOD with EDINBURGH and 4 Destroyers left Scapa at 1740 today to patrol to the Eastward of the Iceland-Faroes passage in order to intercept any Raider which may seek to use it. This patrol is at present intended to return to Scapa during the afternoon of the 29th.

During the operations of one or more E-Boats [redacted] last night off the coast between Yarmouth and Lowestoft it was reported this morning that the M/S Trawler PELTON was sunk while night-sweeping alongside No 5 Buoy, only one survivor being rescued; and the torpedoed Dutch STAD MAASTRICHT in tow of 2 tugs, with SHEARWATER standing by, was ordered at 1745 tonight to continue to tow towards Southend.

One aircraft carrying Flares was carrying out the anti-E-Boat operation P.V.1. to the Eastward of Q.Z.S. 30 from 2200 tonight for 4 hours; and M.L's acted in the same area as an anti-E-Boat Striking Force from 1900 tonight until daylight, keeping to the South of 52° 30' N.

3 M.T.B's left Harwich also at 2105 to operate between Ostend and the Hook of Holland, with orders to visit Flushing Roads if possible and to attack without challenge any vessel met to the Eastward of 2° 15' E.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

It is reported today that during the Air Raid upon the Convoy Anchorage at Oban yesterday 8 Bombs were dropped and 4 M/V's were damaged, of which one Dutch subsequently sank and one was beached. The attack was made by 2 or probably 3 Bombers approaching the Anchorage from the S.W.; and N.O.I.C. Oban considers it essential that the Port and Anchorage should be declared a Prohibited Area to all aircraft except those engaged in operational training. The whole question of the A/A defences of Oban is now to be reviewed.

Mining

A Mine detonated at 1107 today 2 miles 160° from Rame Head and some two minutes after an A/S Trawler had passed slowly over that position; and the Port of Liverpool was re-opened at 1056.

North Atlantic

"Ration" — Operation "Ration" is to be carried out as opportunity offers and forces allow on 26/12, 27/12 and 28/12.

South Atlantic

Enemy Units — C. in C., reported that D.F. bearings indicated and enemy surface unit in neighbourhood 26° .., 07° W., at 2300H/23 Bearings available at the Admiralty however, give positions near Ascension. A later bearing at 0706/24 G.M.T. gave a position near 5° S., 15° W., which C. in C., considers to be a different unit to that on the 23rd.

/Sabotage.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic-Contd.

Sabotage — Capetown reports that a fire in SS SHAHRISTAN, with Government stores from Swansea to Suez, on 15/12, appears to have been started by Sabotage. Further search is to be made at Suez.

Cables — It is under consideration to cut the Brest-Dakar and Casablanca-Dakar cables.

Mediterranean

Castel Benito aerodrome and Tripoli Harbour and town were attacked last night by Wellingtons of the R.A.F. Only 1 aircraft was able to locate the former, but 9 attacked Tripoli with good results.

One aircraft raided Alexandria at 0345 and dropped 4 bombs into the sea.

East Indies

C. in C., East Indies draws attention to the urgent need of a satisfactory system of recognition between H.M.ships and merchant ships by day and night.

America & West Indies

R.C.N. Destroyers — In response to a request for assistance with escorts, Canada is to send ASSINIBOINE, RESTIGOUCHE, ST FRANCIS and COLUMBIA to the Western Approaches. Halifax destroyer escort force will then be reduced to only one seaworthy "Town" class.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Air photographs show some increased railway activity at Trondheim, Calais, Boulogne, and Nantes; but, except at Trondheim, there appears to be no increase of rolling stock and there are no signs of loading at any of the quays which are visible.

British Air Activity.

Some Routine Patrols were flown today, and Air Escort for 17 convoys was provided. In view of the Air attack on the Convoy Anchorage at Oban on the 23rd, A/C are being instructed to keep clear of that Anchorage unless engaged in operations and to avoid flying in the Kyles of Loch Alsh unless this is necessary for operations. A/C of 804 Squadron Fleet Air Arm shot down at 1412 today a Junker 88 near Skeabrae in the Orkneys.

Enemy Air Activity.

All the usual Zenit Flights were carried out today; and Enemy R/C Aircraft operated in the Channel, Bristol Channel, Thames Estuary, N.E. Coast of Scotland, and the Orkneys. One A/C dropped bombs near Convoy E.N. 46 off the Firth of Tay at 1650 this afternoon, and Convoy ARENA was shadowed by one A/C off Clacton at 0855.

Mining.

A Mine was detonated this morning 4 miles S.W. of Rame Head, Plymouth, by M.S.B. 50 which returned to Fowey.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

BERWICK. Action With Enemy Cruiser.

At 0042/25, BERWICK, in position 44'N. 25° W. escorting Convoy W.S.8A, (Troop convoy of 19 ships) which left U.K. on 18/12, reported a capital ship of the DEUTSCHLAND ∅ class bearing 290° 12 miles from her. At 0218, she reported the enemy as an 8-in. cruiser, and an hour later that he had disappeared in thick weather to westward on course 290°. BERWICK thought the enemy had not sighted the convoy. The position of convoy was then some 660 miles West of C. Finisterre. Enemy was last seen at 0953Z in 43° 36'N. 25° 12' W.
At 0930, CLEMATIS (corvette, one of the convoy escort) reported she had engaged an unknown raider in 43.47 N., 24° W., (about 660 miles W. of Cape Finisterre) that BONAVENTURE (cruiser, 6 6 inch) and DUNEDIN (cruiser, 6 6 inch) were pursuing, and that EMPIRE TROOPER (transport, ex-German CAP NORTE, 13,615 tons) had been damaged. Convoy had then been scattered by Commodore's orders. No British forces other than those with W.S.8A were within 200 miles of the position.

10 5-25

At 1019, Force H at Gibraltar was ordered to raise steam with all despatch, and at 1038 was ordered to sea. It left at 1400, consisting of RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, and destroyers FAULKNOR, FOXHOUND, FIREDRAKE, FORTUNE, DUNCAN, WISHART, HERO and HEREWARD.

At 1046 §15th Cruiser Squadron (NAIAD and BONAVENTURE), which had formed part of the convoy escort, but were then, on the way back, (in about 50° 40' N. 18° 35' W. some 430 miles to the northward) were ordered to close the enemy, but at 1733, NAIAD was ordered to return to Scapa.

BERWICK fought a short action with the enemy. She was seen to open fire by FURIOUS at 0842 G.M.T., in position given by dead reckoning of FURIOUS and ARGUS as 43.20 N., 24.20 W. Visibility was poor (later estimated at half a mile). BERWICK claimed one hit certain on the enemy abaft the funnel, possibly more. Her own damage included "X" turret out of action, a hit below the water line on starboard side, a shell through forward boiler room, one 4-in gun out of action, and the midship funnel holed.
Four marines were killed and one dangerously wounded.

BONAVENTURE reported at 1129 that touch had been lost with the enemy, who was last seen at 0956Z in 43.36 N., 25.12 W., steering 290°.

There were indications during the morning of several U-boats on the convoy route to eastward of the Azores.

At 1224/25 .....

MOST SECRET.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

BERWICK, Action With Enemy Cruiser. (Contd.)

At 1224/25, FURIOUS, in 43.19 N., 25.11 W., with ARGUS in company, reported she was flying off reconnaissance aircraft and intended to continue the hunt, but at 1345 the weather obliged her to abandon flying and to rejoin the convoy.

At 1308, C.in C. Home Fleet ordered REPULSE and NIGERIA, screened by 4 destroyers, to sea from Scapa to give protection to Convoys H.X.97 and S.C.16, then in position about 53° N.

At 1324, Convoy W.S.5A and escorts were ordered by the Admiralty to steer for Gibraltar. Meantime, Force H proceeded at high speed towards 37° N., 16° W., intending to join the convoy.

At 1631 N., DUNEDIN (one of the convoy escort) reported that when proceeding to rejoin convoy she had met CITY OF CANTERBURY and was taking her to 41° N., 10° W. (some 200 miles to south east). Her position was then 42.30 N. 23.25 W.

The situation about this time viz. 3 p.m. was that the cruisers BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN, and aircraft carriers, ARGUS and FURIOUS were in the vicinity of BERWICK. The convoy (some 250 miles North of Azores) had scattered.
The Admiralty had ordered convoy and escorts to steer for Gibraltar.
Vice Admiral C.S.15 in NAIAD was a long way off to the Northward 50.50 N., 18.40 W., steaming at 20 kts. on 220°.
Force K (FORMIDABLE aircraft carrier and NORFOLK cruiser) was to S.W. of the Azores, steering to meet the convoy.
Force H had left Gibraltar and was proceeding West at high speed to 37° N. 16° W.
CACHALOT (submarine, from Azores Patrol) was in about 40° N., 19° W., (some 220 miles away) on her way to UK., and TRIDENT, which had relieved her, was in the vicinity of the Azores.
DERBYSHIRE (A.M.C., South Atlantic Station) was patrolling off the Azores within 100 miles of 39.20 N., 21.40 W.
CATHAY (A.M.C.). ~~The~~ Sierra Leone convoy S.L.69 homeward bound were in about 35.20 N., 20.30 W. some 450 miles to the southward.
KENYA was later ordered by C.in C., W.Approaches to N.V. and escort this convoy.

/ At 1654. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

BERWICK. Action With Enemy Cruiser.

At 1654. Force K was ordered to join BERWICK and Convoy W.S.5A. Force H was ordered to R.V. with BERWICK and escort the Convoy until Force K joined, after which Force K was to escort it to Freetown.
Force H, with BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN and ARGUS were then to escort merchant ships for "Excess", and Operation "Excess" was to be postponed 24 hours by S.O. Force H if necessary.

At 1920 the Admiralty ordered DORSETSHIRE (cruiser South Atlantic Station at Freetown) to join Force K. (She was reported next day by C.in C. S.A. as ready to leave Freetown on the morning of the 27th).

The transport EMPIRE TROOPER had been hit by the raider and from 1500 G.M.T. distress messages began to come in from her. The CYCLAMEN, corvette (with her W/T out of action), had met her and was standing by her at 1648 G.M.T.
At 1930 BONAVENTURE was proceeding to her assistance.

At midnight, BERWICK was attempting to collect the convoy, scattered after the attack.
They had been given at 1549/24, a rendezvous in 39.08 N., 21.38 W. at noon/26 (about 300 miles to southeast of position where they scattered) by the Commodore of the Convoy for which BERWICK was making.

At 2344 the Admiralty ordered S.O. Force H to take charge at the moment he considered appropriate, warning him and BERWICK that convoy position "LARK" (43.40 N., 23.50 W) had probably been compromised.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Replying to Admiralty 1949/24, ordering Operation "Ration" to be carried out as opportunity offered on 26, 27 and 28/12, F.O.C.N.A. reported that Force H was at sea and there were no forces available.

Mediterranean.

C.in C. Mediterranean is most concerned at the Admiralty decision to retain N class destroyers in home waters, having hoped for them to alleviate a situation which may shortly become critical. It has not been possible to spare a destroyer to refit since August 11.

R.A.F. Middle East, reports having bombed Valona yesterday and machine gunned heavily a cruiser in the harbour.

East Indies.

CARLISLE, SOUTHAMPTON and KIMBERLEY left Aden this morning to join Convoy W.S.4B (10 transports with troops for Middle East). SAGITTA (armed boarding vessel) completed a reconnaissance of the Somali Coast from Bandar Kassim to Heis. At Heis, dhows were found and some stores on the beach. A few rounds were fired at the stores and a house close by. There were 2 naval casualties, not serious, from machine gun fire at 1500 yards.

German Merchant Ships.

The LA PLATA and HEINRICH ARP left Bilbao for an unknown destination about noon yesterday.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

In case the Raiding Cruiser now in the Atlantic should try to return to Germany by way of Denmark Strait, C.S.12 in MANCHESTER has been ordered to proceed with NIGERIA to support LETITIA and CHITRAL in the Strait.

British Air Activity.

Special Air Patrols were flown early this morning to the Eastward and Westward of the Faroe Islands; an Air Patrol is now to be flown daily before noon to search the area North of the Shetlands; and the usual Routine Patrols were all flown today. Air escort was provided during today for 16 Convoys.

Enemy Air Activity.

A long-range F.W. Aircraft flew due west today from Bordeaux to as far as 30° W. which is believed to be the most westerly position yet reached by enemy A/C from that port. Enemy A/C made only coastal flights off our South and S.W. coasts.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.
POSITION STATIONS.

Raider and Convoy W.S.5.A.

During 26/12 units of the escort of Convoy W.S.5.A. searched for the troopships, which had scattered on the appearance of the 8-inch gun cruiser attacked by the BERWICK on 25/12. Force H and Force K were making for the Convoy. Senior Officer Force K in FORMIDABLE with NORFOLK reported his position at 0800 H as 40.05N 25.08W and that he intended trying to collect the convoy at the Commodore's noon, 26th R/V (viz. 39° 8'N., 21° 38'W) and escort to 37° N., 10° W. The visibility was poor. (3 miles).

DERBYSHIRE (A.M.C. South Atlantic) was ordered by S.O.Force H at 0801 to proceed to the assistance of EMPIRE TROOPER, believed damaged in 48.26'N., 24.10W., at 1751Z/25. CYCLAMEN with W/T out of action had been reported standing by her at 1648Z/25. At 1046/26, DORAVENTURE then in 41.57 N., 25.16W., reported she also was proceeding to assist EMPIRE TROOPER.

At 1130/26. S.O.Force K reported that his position at 1200 H., was 39.16 N., 22.14 W. Visibility had improved to one mile. None of the Convoy had then been met, and flying was impracticable.

At 1143/26. KENYA which had left Plymouth at 2030/25 to meet and escort Convoy O.L.59 reported an aircraft, which became corrupted into a ship of the DEUTSCHLAND class in 47° N., 11° W. As it seemed probable that the Convoy was proceeding to a French port, Admiralty requested C.in C. Western Approaches to arrange a destroyer night attack, but this was subsequently cancelled.

At 1342, Admiralty in response to a request from S.O.Force H, instructed ships of W.S.5.A. by broadcast to steer for position 334 degrees "ROBIN" 166 miles. (This is the Convoy R/V in 39° 8'N., 21° 38'W.)

At 1345Z/26, DORAVENTURE intercepted the German S.S. BADEN (which left Tenerife on the night of 25/26/12)in 44 N., 25.07 W., (about 60 miles N.W. of position where BERWICK met the raider). BADEN was set on fire and abandoned by her crew, and DORAVENTURE finished her off with a torpedo.

/At

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Foreign Stations.

Raider and Convoy H.J.S.A. (Contd.)

At 1721, S.O.Force H ordered the force searching to report at 2300 the number of merchant ships in company, and received the following replies:-
FURIOUS and ARGUS, 40.07N., 18.16W.
No Merchant Ships.
BERWICK.
Force K
No merchant ships.
NORTHERN PRINCE.
CLAN MACDONALD.
EMPIRE SONG.
BONAVENTURE. 43.20N., 22.38W.
No merchant ships, making with EMPIRE TROOPER, a total of 4 ships reported.

BERWICK reported at 2302Z/26 that she considered it necessary to proceed to Gibraltar to make good underwater damage and refuel, having lost 300 tons due to punctured tank.

Vichy French.

MARON (ocean boarding vessel) intercepted & a trawler JOSEPH DUHAMEL in 34.30N., 15.22W from Port Saint Pierre for Casablanca with a cargo of fish and sent her into Gibraltar under armed guard.

South Atlantic.

It has been approved to carry out repairs to CARNARVON CASTLE at Simonstown.
The Free French Foreign Legion left Cameroons River this evening, in CAP DES PALMES and TOUAREG, escorted by DELHI.

SITUATION REPORT.

Foreign Stations.

Mediterranean.

Temporary repairs to the COVENTRY (torpedoed 13/12) have been completed at Alexandria and it is intended she shall proceed to Malta at the end of the month for permanent repairs.

China.

Permission will probably be given in the next few days (C.in C. China reports) to resume sailing between Indo-China and Hong Kong and Singapore.

Australia.

The raider TOKYO MARU (ex KULMERLAND) is reported short of fuel and is thought to be proceeding to Japan to replenish. She is said to have Japanese markings and to carry a seaplane.

It is reported from Emidan Island (Bismarck Archipelago) that survivors landed there are from 10 ships sunk or captured by enemy raiders, three of which are known to have been operating.

At 1940Z/26. Nauru Island 00.13S., 167.00 E., off which shipping was attacked on 6/12, was heavily shelled by an enemy raider. Much damage was done to the jetties and oil storage tanks, but the W/T station and power station are intact. Private houses were not fired on. It was at first reported that the raider had Japanese markings, but a later report from the Commonwealth Naval Board stated that she flew the Nazi ensign at the gaff.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Between 0310 and 0641 this morning while passing between Dungeness and the South Foreland Convoy C.E.20 was shelled by Enemy Coastal Batteries which fired 200 to 250 rounds. All, however, fell in the sea and only the M/S Trawlers BLACKTHORN and DEODAR received some slight damage.
3 M/L's and one A/C carrying Flares were patrolling last night to the Eastward of Q.Z.3. 30 from the latitude of Aldeburgh, and this operation is to be repeated tonight from 2000 until 2230 with one A/C carrying Flares and a second carrying Bombs. A Destroyer Patrol off Ushant is also to be carried out tonight with the object of destroying any Enemy Vessels returning to Brest from the Westward.

British Air Activity.

Several additional Patrols were flown this morning, and the Iceland Faroes Passage is to be patrolled daily by A/C from tomorrow until the 31st inclusive 4 Skuas from Hatston attacked M/V's and Warehouses in a surprise attack on Jaugesund and Hovoer Island this morning, certainly hitting one M/V and possibly another and doing other damage. Enemy S/M's at Bordeaux and Lorient were also again attacked during last night.

Enemy Air Activity.

At 1010 this morning Convoy ARENA was attacked off Clacton by one A/C. 3 heavy H.E. Bombs were dropped and an Oiler in the Convoy was straddled; but no damage was done. At 2000 this evening a Bomb fell in the Victualling Yard at Deptford, wrecking the front of the Chocolate Store and doing other damage. Hostile Patrols were maintained during today in the Straits of Dover, and R/C Flights were plotted to the Thames Estuary and off the Isle of Wight.

Mining.

At Liverpool the Isle of Man Steamer VICTORIA was mined at 1540 this afternoon while 8 miles S.W. of the Bar Light Vessel, but was towed back to harbour; and in the newly-changed position of the Thames Gateway at a spot which over 40 Ships had crossed during the forenoon the s.s. ARABY in Convoy was mined at 1445.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.12.1940.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

CONVOY H.S.5A and RAIDER

North Atlantic.

The RENOWN and ARK ROYAL (Force H) were on the way to meet EMPIRE TROOPER.

S.L. 59 (Sierra Leone Convoy, homeward) at 0115 was in 42° 44' N. 21° 29' W. (some 120 miles E. of position where BERWICK met raider on 25/0930.

The SHEFFIELD and 7 destroyers (Force H) were continuing to 37°N. 16° W. (300 miles W. of Capt St. Vincent) to join Force K (0203).

The JONQUIL, CLEMATIS, GERANIUM (convoy escort) were ordered by S.O. Force K to Ponta Delgada (San Miguel, Azores) to fuel. They arrived at 11.30.

At 8 a.m. the CYCLAMEN with EMPIRE TROOPER was reported in 41° N. 22° 9'W. (some 270 miles from Ponta Delgada.)

S.O. Force H reported that OPERATION "EXCESS" must be postponed for a day.

At 1150 Force H was in 40° 12 N. 17° 40' W. that is, on route of convoy to their rendez vous.

At 1411 the BERWICK was in 37° 7' N. 15° 40' W. near Convoy rendezvous searching to North and North West. The three ships of Gibraltar convoy (CLAN MACDONALD, EMPIRE SONG and NORTHERN PRINCE), were proceeding to Gibraltar escorted by ARGUS and 6 destroyers.
The EMPIRE TROOPER was making her way slowly eastbound at about 6 knots.
The visibility was poor (1 to 3 miles) and S.O. Force K (FORMIDABLE) had sighted nothing.
At 1849 he signalled that convoy, if not at rendezvous by 0800/28, had probably acted in accordance with general instructions (i.e. to disperse and proceed to destination).
He asked for convoy to be ordered by broadcast to be at 23° 20'N. 20° 10'W. at noon/30
The EMPIRE TROOPER was ordered to proceed to Ponta Delgada.
The CYCLAMEN was with her and BONAVENTURE and DERBYSHIRE was on their way to join her, but the former had to proceed to Gibraltar to fuel.

/ By 7.30 p.m. ....

MOST SECRET.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

By 7.30 p.m. the SHEFFIELD had picked up two more ships (CITY OF CANTERBURY and ESSEX)

At midnight the EMPIRE TROOPER was some 240 miles from Ponta Delgada; five other ships had been collected.

The RENOWN and ARK ROYAL were searching for the remainder to North West of rendezvous.

The FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK were proceeding to the rendezvous to search to southwest.

FURIOUS and 2 destroyers were on way to Gibraltar to fuel. ARGUS, DUNEDIN, 6 destroyers with 3 transports for Gibraltar were on way to Gibraltar.

The SHEFFIELD with two transports were waiting at the rendezvous.

BONAVENTURE with prisoners from German S.S. BADEN was on way to Gibraltar. The visibility was poor. The sea was calm.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. SITUATION REPORT. 27.12.1940. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Vichy French.

Operation Ration. At 1445/27 the French armed trawler L'AJACCIENNE passed Gibraltar west to east escorting 4 French merchant ships, but no force was available for interception.

North Atlantic.

TRIDENT, attack on Panama ship. At 0800 G.M.T./27, a submarine (later known to be H.M.S. TRIDENT) attacked a Panamanian steamship off the harbour of Ponta Delgada, but the torpedoes missed and exploded on shore.

South Atlantic.

Operations Against Raiders. Commenting on A.C.N.B's 0830/11/12, in which convoys were preferred to hunting raiders, C.in C. South Atlantic says that the modified system of convoy suggested would involve more ships than are normally available on his station. In general, the principle followed has been to provide cover on the trade routes where attack is most likely.

Mediterranean.

TERROR H.M.S. TERROR was bombed by 10 enemy A/C during an attack on Sollum yesterday, 26/12, without damage or casualties.

East Indies.

Troop Convoys. Convoy B.N.12 (EGRA, TAKLIWA, VARSOVA) with troops and stores for Middle East, left Bombay this morning escorted by LEANDER. Convoy B.S.11½ (CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH, DUNERA, ETHIOPIA, CITY OF FLORENCE), escorted by CLIVE, is due at Port Sudan on 30/12.

German Merchant Ships.

ACHILLES left Vigo shortly before midnight last night.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

C.in C. H.F. sailed from Scapa at 1425 today in NELSON with 4 Destroyers to patrol to the Eastward of the Iceland Faroes Passage where EDINBURGH has been ordered to R/V with him at Noon tomorrow. An A/S Patrol on a line N.E.-ly from Muckle Flugga will be maintained from this evening until the morning of the 2nd. January by 2 A/S Trawlers which left Kirkwall at 1430 today; and F.O. Iceland reports that 6 Battle A/C are available at short notice from there at any time after daylight tomorrow. It is intended at present that NELSON and Destroyers should return to Scapa P.M./31. It is reported today from Stockholm that the Kiel Canal was re-opened yesterday to vessels of moderate beam.

British Air Activity.

2 special Air Patrols between Sullom Voe and the Norwegian Coast have been ordered to be flown daily from tomorrow until the 31st inclusive; and the additional Patrols STAB and SLEEVE were flown today.

Enemy Air Activity.

The Convoy BOOTY was attacked off Clacton at 1045 today by one A/C which dropped 4 bombs but did no damage; 7 H.E. and many Incendiary Bombs were dropped on Plymouth between 1900 and 2000 this evening without any damage to Naval Establishments except one small fire; and at Southampton, where 6 H.E. Bombs were dropped by a single A/C at 1520 today, the ~~Examination Vessel~~ Destroyer NORSEMAN and Tug CANUTE were very seriously damaged.
Two Enemy A/C flew over Liverpool at 1225 today apparently on a R/C flight. The conditions were ideal for this; and F.O. Liverpool suggests that in clear weather in future Patrols should be maintained on the outskirts of the Gun Defended Zone to intercept such flights.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

In consequence of suspected A/C minelaying the Eastern Entrance to Portsmouth was closed this morning except through the Looe Channel; and precautions have been ordered to be observed by Ships entering the Thames Gate. 2 Mines believed to be acoustic were exploded this evening, one about 1 mile from the Bar Light Vessel at Liverpool and one in Mounts Bay.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. SITUATION REPORT. 28.12.1940. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.3.5A. & Raider.

The destroyers DUNCAN and HERO (Force H) were on their way westward to join EMPIRE TROOPER but apparently their fuel was running low. Visibility continued low preventing air search and RENOWN at 0941A reported that edge of starboard bulge was tearing away. This necessitated her return to Gibraltar. GERANIUM was ordered to take charge of KENYA, DERWICK, DERBYSHIRE and corvette to locate EMPIRE TROOPER whose D/F bearing indicated she was 60 miles N.W. of 27/2000 position (40° 12 N. 21° 13' W.) given by CYCLAMEN (2350/27).

At 1000A a signal was made by FORMIDABLE (S.O. Force K) to say that she had picked up 16 vessels of the convoy making a total of 22.
(This figure apparently includes the two picked up by SHEFFIELD on 27/12 - viz. CITY OF CANTERBURY and ESSEX ?)

At 1116 the Admiralty ordered FURIOUS to remain at Gibraltar to sail as soon as possible with DUNEDIN for Freetown.

At noon, the Admiralty broadcasted to 16 ships of convoy a rendezvous to the southward for noon/30 (approximately in 23° 45'N. 20° 10' W.)

The BONAVENTURE at 1111/28 expected to arrive Gibraltar at 1730A with German prisoners from the BADEN (8 officers and 51 men).

At noon A, the RENOWN and ARK ROYAL were in 40° 2' N. 19° 56' W. on the way to Gibraltar (about 750 miles).

The FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK had collected 14 ships of the convoy and were proceeding to southward; two others were with the SHEFFIELD. Only two ships the MENELAUS and COSTA RICA were not accounted for.
The DORSETSHIRE (from Freetown) was to meet FORMIDABLE in 26° 20'N. 20° 25' W. at 0800/31.
The weather was deteriorating and the BERWICK, which had been repaired temporarily at Gibraltar and was on the way to EMPIRE TROOPER, had to reduce speed to 15 knots (1400/28) and did not expect to meet her before daylight 29th.

Escorting EMPIRE TROOPER were the KENYA (cruiser) the CYCLAMEN (corvette) and DERBYSHIRE (armed merchant cruiser). She was about 120 miles from Ponta Delgada at 6 p.m. It was intended that

/ she ...

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A & Raider.

she should, if possible, transfer her troops to warships under the lee of the island, but KENYA did not think this feasible in view of possible submarine attack.

H.M. Consul at Ponta Delgada was informed of the situation and that in view of the fact of EMPIRE TROOPER being an auxiliary warship, there would be no question of internment, so long as they did not land. He was asked to obtain assurances that military would not be interned and that no hindrance would be placed in way of their transhipment.

C.S.10 (KENYA) was directed that if she had to enter harbour, H.M. ships were not to enter to effect a transfer of troops.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Vichy French.

A Tangier report (C.3) states that 10,000 French naval ratings arrived at Casablanca yesterday.

North Atlantic.

With reference to the TRIDENT's attack on the Panamanian ship BONITA off Ponta Delgada, Admiralty have informed TRIDENT that she acted quite correctly. It appears that at least 3 torpedoes were fired, but missed, and 1 exploded on shore, damaging a house, another did not explode and has been salved by the Portuguese and is being taken to Lisbon in the destroyer DOURO. The incident occurred well within territorial waters.

Mediterranean.

Convoy. Convoy W.S.4 B (10 ships with troops for Middle East) escorted by SOUTHAMPTON, KANDAHAR and KIMBERLEY, arrived at Suez this afternoon.

Valona. 3 Blenheims bombed Valona Harbour, one bomb bursting 50 yards from a large ship.

China.

Captain on Staff, Singapore, reports there is no evidence to show that raiders operating in the Pacific are other than German or captured ships, but certain facts tend to show the Japanese are aware that German ships in Japan are probably acting as supply ships and raiders.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

C. in C., Home Fleet has suggested that the endurance of Convoy A/3 Escorts might be increased by about 30% if in such Destroyers as VIMY one boiler were removed and replaced by an internal Fuel Tank, and the suggestion is being considered

Enemy Air Activity

About 25 aircraft, most of which appear to have started from Vannes, attacked Plymouth between 1836 and 1957 last night. About 10 H.E. and many hundreds of Incendiary Bombs were dropped, causing many fires and some civilian casualties; but there were no Naval casualties and the damage to Naval buildings was slight.

An enemy aircraft appeared from the N.W. over the Orkneys at 1458 this afternoon and remained over the Prohibited Area for about one hour. It was engaged both by our fighters and by shore Batteries with U.T.P. and was last plotted on a S.E. course 30 miles East of Wick at 1618.

About 50 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland Convoy S.L. 58 was attacked at 0935 this morning, the British TREVARRACK of 5270 tons being hit an abandoned in a sinking condition at 1430; and the Convoy AGENT was bombed off Clacton at 1400 today, no damage being done. At 1510 two H.E. Bombs were also dropped on Ramsgate, causing some damage to houses but no Naval damage or casualty.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

At Liverpool 3 more mines were detonated this afternoon in QZS 74 about 7½ miles 312° from the Nelson Buoy; and during the 24 hours ending 1800 today 9 mines in all have been exploded, one of hich damaged the SS CITRINE of 5218 tons in the Queens Channel at 1345 today. In view of this situation F.O.I.C. Liverpool considers the provision of at least 4 additional Sweepers for the Preston and Barrow Channels an urgent necessity.

2 mines were cut by Fleet Minesweepers in the War Channel off Harwich at 1240 and 1245 today; and the Eastern Entrance to Portsmouth was re-opened to shipping at 1716.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A. and Raider

The EMPIRE TROOPER (damaged transport) is expected to arrive at Ponta Delgada (San Miguel) in the Azores at noon. It is hoped that she will complete repairs shortly, but if this impracticable another merchant vessel will be sent to transport troops.

Ponta Delgada H.M.Consul was asked for a very early report as to whether ship could be made seaworthy at Ponta Delgada. (1158/29)

The submarine TRIDENT on patrol off Ponta Delgada at 0800/27 fired 3 torpedoes at a Panama ship which refused to answer signals.

Three transports of the convoy arrived at Gibraltar at 7.30 a.m. escorted by the ARGUS, DUNEDIN and 5 Destroyers.

/FURIOUS.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Convoy W.S. 5 A. Raider-Contd.

FURIOUS and DUNEDIN left Gibraltar at 1430 with destroyers. FURIOUS and FURY to rendezvous with convoy at 0900N/3/1. (N.S. Note. Convoy would then be approaching Freetown.)

As corvettes had been left behind the escort from there to Freetown would be destroyers ENCOUNTER and ILEX.

At noon/29 Convoy W.S. 5 A escorted by FORMIDABLE (aircraft carrier) and NORFOLK (cruiser) was in 33° 18' N., 19° 10' W., 85 miles west of Madeira. DORSETSHIRE (cruiser) was to meet them at 0800/31 in 26° N., 20° 25 W., (about 450 miles, south)

At 1651/29 the RENOWN and ARK ROYAL were about 180 miles from Gibraltar.

No report had been received of CLAN CUMMING and CALIFORNIA (armed merchant cruiser) was ordered at 1715/29 to proceed and search in approximate position 43° 40' N., 24° 30' W. Ships approaching this area were told to keep a special look out.

Shortly afterwards (1842/29) news came of CLAN CUMMING. At 1200/28 she was about 400 miles West of Gibraltar, making at 12 knots for Gibraltar with defects where she arrived at 2222/29.

This left only the MENELAUS and COSA RICA unaccounted for.

The CYCLAMEN with EMPIRE TROOPER had arrived at Ponta Delgada (Azores) at 1801/29 and the DUCHESS OF YORK was expected there on the 30th.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Vichy French

A French floating dock with 3 tugs and trawler was sighted off Cape Tarifa at 1825/29.

Vichy warships are to be allowed to proceed south of Dakar. They should, however, be reported and if circumstances allow their destination checked.

South Atlantic

The flag of F.O., Force H. was struck in NEPTUNE at sunset yesterday, and Vice-Admiral J.H.D. Cunningham sailed today for U.K. in ORONTES.

Force L, after completing with fuel on 31/12, is to proceed to Simonstown.

The tanker BRITISH PREMIER is overdue and feared lost.

Mediterranean

C. in C., Mediterranean, commenting on the delay to Operation "Excess", says that so long as Force H has a double function and has to look westward as well as into the Mediterranean such delays will be unavoidable. The ideal is to have a force free from other commitments which covers convoys from West through to Narrows.

HYPERION (sunk 21/12) is considered to have been the victim of a mine, though the possibility of a U-Boat cannot be altogether excluded.

/Tobruk.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Tobruk and Valona were bombed by R.A.F. aircraft yesterday.

R.A.F. Blenheims bombed Valona again today, damaging port buildings. Two cargo boats in harbour were machine gunned. A submarine was observed in harbour.

East Indies

B.S. 11½ (Red Sea southbound convoy) left Aden at 0200Z/29 escorted by CALEDON, SHOREHAM and AUKLAND.

COLOMBO is to leave patrol off Kismayu, Italian Somaliland, to arrive Mombasa on 1/1/1941.

At 0313 G.M.T./29 BRITISH LOYALTY when in 14.20 N., 51.20 E., (N.E. of Socotra) made a "Q" distress message and broadcast a description of a suspicious vessel pursuing her. A cancellation of the message at 0401 was regarded with suspicion, and it was assumed there was a raider in the Gulf of Aden, but later BRITISH LOYALTY made a message in accordance with Admiralty D.V.

U-Boat Campaign

Submarine TUNA reports that at 0430/18 in 45.28 N., 02.27 W (off Gironde Estuary) she attacked a U-Boat, possibly German, with torpedo and gun. The U-Boat was hit not vitally, by one shell. 2 escort vessels forced TUNA to dive.

MOST SECRET.

30.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

A further statement in the press is reported today from Stockholm to the effect that the maximum draught for ships using the Kiel Canal is five metres only until the existing obstruction can be cleared.
The S/M TUNA reports today that at 2314 on the 18th she sank by gunfire an enemy Armed Trawler off the Gironde.

British Air Activity.

The Dockyard and Shipping at Brest, and the Dockyard and U/Boats at Lorient were again attacked by our A/C last night; and the Routine patrols in the Rosyth Area were flown during this forenoon.

Enemy Air Activity.

The S.S. TREVARRACK, bombed yesterday in Convoy S.L.58, was taken in tow early this morning and is making for port; and it is reported today that at 2010 last night two H.E. bombs and several Incendiary Bombs were dropped at Deptford, causing considerable damage to some Naval buildings but no apparent injury to any Naval stores.

Mining.

At Liverpool today VENOMOUS, the tanker DORCASIA of 8053 tons, and the Steam Coaster CALCIUM, were all damaged by mine at different points in the approaches to the Port; and VENOMOUS was safely berthed tonight in the Gladstone Dock.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

30.12.40.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider.

Force H. (R NOWN, ARK ROYAL and 6 Destroyers arrived at Gibraltar at 0900/30. The EMPIRE TROOPER had been holed by a 5.9 inch shell just above water line, flooding the fore hold. The water was being pumped out and a plate welded on. She left Ponta Delgada at 2300/30. The ARABISTAN had also been hit above the water line and was possibly the 6000 ton ship claimed in the German communique. The MENELAUS and COSTA RICA had been sent at 2132/26 in 39°15'N., 21° 47'W and far from R/V. given by Commodore, Convoy, steering South. The Commodore was of opinion they had gone on. At 1800/30 they were reported with DORSETSHIRE in 23° 43 N., 20° 14'W. (about 480 miles north of Cape Verde Is.)

Vichy French.

There is no objection to the French floating dock (sighted off Cape Tarifa yesterday) proceeding to a French Colonial port, but if it appears to be going occupied French it is to be intercepted.

Operation "Ration" is to be put into force tomorrow 31/12 and subsequent days, the fact of the RENOWN being in dock at Gibraltar being accepted. The object of "Ration" is to prevent the French making a hole in our blockade. Five destroyers will carry out this operation.

North Atlantic.

The duties of Force H are defined in Adm 1152/30. British HALGORA, 6879 tons, made a raider report at 1434 today, but the suspicious ship proved to be H.M.S. DERBYSHIRE.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

30.12.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

The American ship ALGIC, 5496 tons, reporte a suspicious vessel similar to a tanker in 25.03 S., 1.10 E., at 1952 G.M.T. today.

Mediterranean.

R.A.F. Wellingtons bombed Naples last night and observed several bursts near the customs jetty. Battleships and destroyers there appeared to have steam up.

Malta was raider from 1120 and three bombs dropped on Lu a aerodrome. The raid was followed by 2 other large formations but both turned back 8 miles N.E. and 38 miles N of Grand Harbour, respectively.

East Indies.

As the Italians may be contemplating a raid on Abadan ~~the~~ the Shat El Arab area, it is understood that COCKCHAFER (river gunboat -ex-Yangtse Flotilla) is to be moored in the vicinity of Abadan.

America and West Indies.

Washington reports information from a D/F bearing of a German warship 104° from the coastguard station at Southampton, Long Island, 4 miles E. of Shittbruneck Light, at 1200Z today. Further particulars have been asked for.

MOST SECRET.

30.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia.

Convoy U.S.3 (QUEEN MARY, AWATEA, AQUITANIA, DOMINION MONARCH, and MAURETANIA) with troops for the Middle East, assembled this morning at a R/V in the Western Bass Straits, escorted by CANBERRA.

The use of a base by enemy raider in the Marshall Islands has been reported by the Chief Officer of RANGITANE, one of their victims.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

C. in C., H.F. in NELSON with 4 destroyers returned to Scapa at 1220 today from patrol of the Iceland Faroes Passage whence EDINBURGH had also returned to Scapa at 1051. REPULSE and 2 Destroyers also returned to Scapa at 0600 this morning from Convoy Escort duty in the Atlantic.

D/F bearings and W/T traffic at 0228 this morning and a reliable fix at 1151 today suggested movements of Enemy Naval Units between the Bergen and Namsos areas and off the Danish Coast; and a Convoy of 9 camouflaged M/V's moving slowly Northwards was reported about 10 miles S.W. of Ijmuiden at 1515.

British Air Activity

Submarines and Shipping at Bordeaux and two Train Ferries lying in the Verbendings Canal at Flushing were attacked by our A/C last night; but the two special Patrols ordered from Sullom Voe to the Norwegian Coast, as well as patrol UNIT, were cancelled owing to the weather and no additional Patrols were flown today in the Rosyth area.

Enemy Air Activity

East Coast

Convoy PEWIT was shadowed by one aircraft at 1419 today off Clacton, where at 1429 Convoy AGENT (F.N.) was attacked by one aircraft which dropped 3 bombs without any damage. At 1621 two H.E. bombs were dropped on the South Pier at Lowestoft, also without causing any Naval damage or casualty.

Mining

Liverpool

At Liverpool duting the 24 hours ending at 1800 today 3 mines were detonated, one spontaneously, one by LL sweeper, and the third by the Swedish BUENOS AIRES some 30 miles N.W. of Birkenhead at about 1740. One Red Mine was detonated at 1145 this morning off the Manneles.

/C. in C. Rosyth..

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Moray Firth

C. in C., Rosyth considers that, in view of recent indications that U-Boats have been entering the Moray Firth where any interference with Convoys would be a serious matter, the Minefields in that area should be strengthened.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider

On the assumption that the warship raider reported in the South Atlantic has gone north and was the one which attacked Convoy W.S. 5 A on 25/12, the dispositions ordered in Admiralty 1917/24/11 are terminated. Accordingly-
CORNWALL's refit may be proceeded with (at Simonstown)
ENTERPRISE (last reported in Plate Area) may be sailed to form Force "T"
As DORSETSHIRE has had to replace BERWICK (damaged) in Force "K", DEVONSHIRE must be employed to escort W.S.5 A on latter part of the voyage to Durban.

Revised arrangements for W.S. 5 A (in substitution for those in A.T. 2219/26/11) are contained in Admiralty 0229/31.

BERWICK arrived at Gibraltar at 1745 today. An unexploded shell is considered to have been an 8 inch projectile.

Shells fired at EMPIRE TROOPER and CLEMATIS appear to have been 5.9 inch.

F.O.C. North Atlantic calls attention to the congestion at Gibraltar, where almost every available berth inside the harbour is now occupied. The harbour is thus at the moment particularly vulnerable to air attack.

MOST SECRET

31.12.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Vichy French

At 0915 today the French armed trawler ASPIRANT BRUN passed Gibraltar East to West escorting 4 French merchant ships.

At 1500 the French armed trawler LA TOULONNAISE passed West to East escorting another 4 French merchant ships.

A Lisbon report (graded A.1.) states that French warships at Casablanca have now been given orders to keep clear of British men of war and avoid any action that might be considered provocative.

North Atlantic

VELOX and VIDETTE, destroyers, left Gibraltar at 1130 today for Freetown to replace FURY and FORESTER, which arrived at Gibraltar at 1300 today.

South Atlantic

VINDICTIVE and 2 destroyers arrived at Freetown this morning from Gibraltar.

Mediterranean

R.A.F. Headquarters, Malta, report successful attacks yesterday on Taranto, Crotonne, Naples and adjacent naval units, and observed 11 bursts round the target. Naples and Palermo were each bombed by one Wellington.

Valona was bombed again today by 9 Wellingtns

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

If C. in C., Mediterranean, can spare EAGLE it is intended to form a hunting group for East Indies Station consisting of EAGLE and EMERALD.

COLOMBO is to leave Mombasa on Jan 2 to patrol off Kismayu.

The next naval bombardment of Kismayu will be known as Operation "Begun"

China

ABERDARE and HARRO, minesweepers, are very unsuitable for a hot climate, and C. in C., China offers them for service elsewhere.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

F.O. 2 C.S. in AURORA sailed with KENYA at 0430 today from Iceland to search an area in the North Atlantic for a possible enemy supply ship.

Newfoundland Escort Force.

The proposed reorganisation of the Western Approaches Escort Force necessitated by the institution of the Newfoundland Escort Force is given in C. in C. W.A. 1301B/30.

Enemy Air Operations.

At 0100 enemy aircraft flew over Sanday (Orkneys). Three explosions were heard, but no damage appears to have been caused.

S.S. EMPIRE SAILOR reported being attacked at 2318 in 57° 6' N 10° 7' W. (P.D.)

Mining.

Mines were detonated off Sheerness.
S.S. WEST AVON was mined in the Thames Estuary at 1402.

Mines were detonated off Yarmouth.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.5.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Suez Canal.	Admty. 1041B/30 to C. in C. Med. refers.
Syria.	The Admiralty today sent two important messages to C. in C. Med., concerning Syria.
Alexandria.	A few mines are reported to have been dropped at Alexandria last night.
S.S. FLORIDA II ISARCO	Three Blenheims today attacked the damaged Italian S.S. FLORIDA II and the ISARCO which was stationary near her, about 4 miles east of Sfax. Results were not seen.
Syria.	Blenheims carried out a R/C of the harbours at Latakia and Beirut today, but no unusual shipping was seen.
Hospital ships.	In view of the deliberate attacks on British Hospital Ships, the Admty today gave permission to C. in C. Med., to seize any Italian hospital ships encountered.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.8.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

North Atlantic.

R.F.A. Oiler CAIRNDALE was reported torpedoed and sunk at 0818 today in 35° 19' N 8° 33' W.

Tanker BRITISH YEOMAN (independent) was reported torpedoed at 0304 in 35° 28' N 8° 11' W, but actually she was unsuccessfully attacked at 0351/30.

S.S. EMPIRE STORM, a straggler from H.X.128 made S.O.S. this morning in 55° N 39° 50' W (about 700 miles N.E. of St. Johns N.F.)

South Atlantic.

M.V. SANGARA was believed torpedoed at anchor at Accra at 2230 G.M.T. today. S.S. EMPIRE PROTECTOR is reported to have been torpedoed at 1120 G.M.T. in approx. 5° 48' N 14° 18' W.

S.S. SILVERYEW (independent) was reported torpedoed at 0030 G.M.T. in 16° 42' N 25° 29' W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

4 M.G.B's left Harwich at 2057B for operations off the Belgian coast.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations today on account of bad weather.

Mining.

Enemy minelaying aircraft operated lastnight in Liverpool Bay and the Bristol Channel.

Mines were detonated off St. Ann's Head and cut off Falmouth today.

North Atlantic.

RENOWN will not be taken in hand for refit at present.

It appears from a corrupt signal that P.32 on passage to Gibraltar has been damaged by bombs.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

C. in C. S.A. reports that he considers it imperative to increase the A/S vessels available at Freetown.

Mediterranean.

S.S. FLORIDA II attacked.

S.S. FLORIDA II (Italian) was attacked by 3 Blenheims at 0700 whilst at anchor 4 miles outside Sfax. Three direct hits are reported

Alexandria.

From 2300 to 2400/31 there was an air raid on Alexandria during which mines were laid south of the Great Pass. The port is open.

Evacuation of Crete.

About 12,000 troops had been evacuated from Crete up to midnight tonight, with 500 military casualties from Air attack on passage NAPIER and NIZAM have arrived at Alexandria with 1509 troops. PERTH and NAPIER have been damaged by air attack. NAPIER and NIZAM shot down one a/c and damaged 3 more.

Some long range fighter protection was available yesterday and today for H.M. and Merchant ships evacuating troops, and several enemy aircraft were destroyed, damaged or driven off. Many fighters, failed, however, to make contact with our forces at sea.

Twelve aircraft last night attacked Maleme and Heraklion aerodromes which the enemy are using as bases for attacks on our troops in Crete. Several enemy aircraft are reported to have been destroyed or damaged.

Naval casualties during the recent operations are reported to be 100 officers and 1700 men.

VALIANT is now fit for service.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

The Iraq authorities today asked for and were granted an armistice.

America & West Indies.

SUFFOLK's orders have been altered (see Home Commands 29/5) and she is to search for PRINZ EUGEN. Other forces in the area are TRUANT, REPULSE and REVENGE (For dispositions see Admty. 1328B/31 to SUFFOLK).

Arrangements have now been completed for Atlantic ferrying aircraft to report by W/T positions of any S/Ms sighted and on landing particulars of enemy surface vessels seen.

U-Boat Campaign.

It is thought that U-boats may be operating in Denmark Straits and to northward of Iceland (C).

N.W. Approaches. — S.S. GRAVELINES, a straggler from H.X. was torpedoed at 0130B in 55° N 10° W or 56° N 10° W.

South Atlantic. — S.S. CLAN MACDOUGAL reported being torpedoed at 0226 N in 16° 50' N 25° 10' W (off Cape Verde Is.)

Owing to the increase in the number of ships calling at St. Vincent (C. Verde Is.) it is thought that enemy S/Ms will be waiting off the islands. The Admty have instructed C. in C. S.A. to arrange for ships leaving St. Vincent to be escorted from territorial waters as far out as possible. Ships are being re-routed to avoid Cape Verde Is.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.6.41.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

STURGEON and SEALION have been ordered to try to intercept an enemy warship which appears to be proceeding to La Pallice. TRIDENT, TUNA and RUBIS are to sail Biscay patrol. Air R/C has been arranged.

H.M.T. STORA was destroyed by explosion, apparently of magazine, at Aberdeen today.

British Air Operations

Owing to bad weather Bomber Command carried out no operations last night or today.

Coastal Command carried out the majority of the routine patrols, as well as the special patrol to search for enemy vessels in the Bay of Biscay.

Enemy Air Operations

SS FERNBANK was attacked and damaged at 0005 off Peterhead.

In the attack on Merseyside last night damage was caused at Gladston Dock and to Naval establishments.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.6.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining.

Operation B.B. 63. — TEVIOT BANK laid mines in the East Coast Barrier today.

Mines were detonated off Yarmouth.

Liverpool was cleared from 0330B to 1530.

Mediterranean

Malta — Malta harbour was opened at 1100.

Long range fighters. — C. in C. Med. 2031C/1 contains an important note regarding long range fighters.

Western Desert. — A lighter No.10 and a cargo of M.T. have been lost by fire in Tobruk Harbour. Trawlers and schooners operating along the coast have been persistantly attacked by aircraft and have suffered some damage but no known losses yet, other than those already reported.

Syria — Syria is now regarded as enemy occupied territory. All ships proceeding to or from Syria without British authority are to be sunk or sent to a port under British control.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.6.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Evacuation of Crete

Wellingtons last night attacked the aerodromes at Maleme and Heraklion and dropped supplies east of Sphakia for our troops. Continuous fighter patrols were maintained today over Naval forces engaged in the Evacuation.

CALCUTTA was bombed and sank in about 5 minutes this morning in 31° 55' N., 28° 5' E.

The operation of evacuating troops from Crete terminated this evening with the arrival of C.S. 15's force and 3900 troops. As far as can be ascertained the total evacuated are thought to be just over 17,000, of whom some 500 were casualties. 5,500 were left at Sphakia with orders to capitulate and to these must be added up to 2000 from Retimo or in small parties who never reached the south coast. The total left behind was therefore about 7000. The enemy are reported to have shown lack of enterprise.

The evacuation had to be carried out from places which are within easy reach of enemy forces. It was not possible to cover the operations with heavy ships or cruisers. Each load of men had to spend 14 daylight hours at sea in face of extremely heavy scale of air attack.

When the R.A.F. were able to get long range fighters in the air the effect on the enemy was noticeable and a number of attacks were beaten off.

/C. in C. Med....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.6.41.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Evacuation of Crete-Contd.

C. in C. Med. draws particula attention to the performance of the Royal Marines of the M.N.B.D.O. who in the withdrawal from Suda Bay were constituted by General Weston into a rearguard.

East Indies

LEANDER left Aden today, to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

America & West Indies

VAN KINSBERGEN intercepted the French SS ARICA in 17° 12' N., 53° 19' W., and is escorting her to Trinidad.

U-Boat Campaign

South Atlantic

On account of submarines off Cape Verde Islands no British or Allied ships are to call there.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Northern Approaches.

C. in C.H.F. today sent an important message to the Admiralty regarding the Northern Straits.

The Denmark Straits Patrol is being maintained by a cruiser and A.M.C's.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night on account of bad weather.

Blenheims were despatched today to attack shipping in the Kiel Canal and off north-west Germany and the coast of Norway. Several vessels were attacked in the Kiel Canal, but only one small ship is claimed as a loss. One vessel is reported destroyed off Vestbydd (15 miles N.W. of Lindisnow).

Enemy Air Activity.

Northern Approaches.

S.S. HONTES TROOM reported being machine gunned and bombed at 0521 in 62° 28' N. 14° 42' W. No further details are known. NEWMARKET was unsuccessfully attacked in the same area about the same time.

/East.....

1

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

East Coast.

PRINCE RUPERT CITY in Convoy E.C. 26 was bombed at 0145 and abandoned in 58° 46' 30" N. 4° 41' 30" E, and sank later.

A.P. Trawler INVERTAY was unsuccessfully attacked while on patrol off Greyness at 0132.

Convoy E.C. 27 was unsuccessfully bombed at 0956 in 55° 13' N. 1° 18' W. (off Blyth).

Hulk THORPEBAY was bombed and damaged off the Tyne whilst in tow.

Convoy F.S.4 was bombed constantly between 1651 and 2319, between Scarborough and Spurn Point. S.S. BEAUMANOIR was hit and sunk. The small tanker PASS OF LENY inward bound from F.S. 4 and H.M.T. TARTAN were attacked and slightly damaged near the Humber L.V. at 2345 and2330 respectively.

Mining.

Operation B.S. 57.

PLOVER, working with 4th M.S. Flotilla, laid mines last night in the East coast Barrier.

South Atlantic.

Owing to S/M attacks in the Freetown area -ships are being diverted.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air Operations. C. in C. Med. 2345B/2 contains a note on the strategical situation in the Central Mediterranean and air operations proposed.

Malta. C. in C. Med. intends to run a shuttle service of S/M's with essential supplies for Malta. He also makes other proposals in 11220/2.

Libya Operations.

Strategical situation. The occupation by the enemy of the entire Greek Archipelago and its many harbours has made it possible for him to base or fuel his ships within easy striking distance of the Libyan-Egyptian coast. Suda Bay for example, is closer to Tobruk than is Alexandria.

Air R/C's. C. in C. Med. today gives details of the air reconnaissances which he requires in future.

Mining. 4 F.A.A. Swordfish from Malta last night laid mines on the Tripoli Benghazi route.

Tobruk. VENDETTA and WATERHEN continue to run supplies and ammunition into Tobruk during dark hours, and to transport personnel. The enemy shelling of Tobruk and the harbour has been intensified.

Cyprus. M.T.B's 215 and 68 have arrived at Famagusta and are operating from there with 815 Squadron of Swordfish.

Greek ships. C. in C. Med. proposes that AVEROFF, 6 destroyers, one S/M and repair ship should sail to India to refit, leaving 3 T.B's, 4 S/M's and one accommodation ship at Alexandria. The real reason is low morale and lack of wish to fight. C. in C. Med reports that he thinks the ships will be of little use to us in the Mediterranean and there is always the fear that they may slip back to Greece when at sea.

Casualties. BARHAM and DIDO have been passed through the Canal to Suez.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.6.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

N.W. Approaches	EMPIRE SUNBEAM reported being chased at 1247 in 58° 42' N. 10° 51' W.
	Belgian S.S. MOKAMBO in O.B. 329 was torpedoed at 1917B in 56° 38' N. 10° 24' W.
Western Approaches.	Greek S.S. MICHAEL L. EMBIRICOS a straggler from S.C. 32 was torpedoed at 1857 in 48° 50' N. 29° 0' W.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Enemy Intelligence.

A Russian naval R/C today of the North Norway Coast was prevented by fog from going further West than 26° East; but Moscow reports a force of 5 Destroyers, 6 Escort Vessels, 3 S/M's and some small craft based on Varanger Fiord, 12 S/M's at Trondheim, about 100 A/C at Kirkenes, and another 10 at both Tromso and Narvik.

Air R/C of Kiel today showed that TIRPITZ had left the floating dock since 25/7.

Denmark Strait patrol.

SHROPSHIRE arrived at Hvalfiord at 1630/2.

British Air Activity.

A regular weekly air service between Prestwick and Reykjavik is being instituted today, leaving Prestwick every Monday and Reykjavik every Wednesday weather permitting.

All bombing operations were cancelled last night owing to the weather. Coastal Command A/C report having sunk with torpedo a 2000 ton Tanker today about 8 miles off Ostend.

Fighter Command attacked an E.boat off Cherbourg and left it in a sinking condition. Bomber Command aircraft set on fire a patrol vessel 6 miles west of Den Helder and left it sinking.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

A Trawler was unsuccessfully attacked off Fugloy this afternoon.

Convoy E.C.53 was unsuccessfully attacked off Montrose at 2330.

Since 29/4 there have been eleven attacks on shipping off Tyne ports waiting to join East Coast Convoys usually at evening twilight when there is insufficient light for any but night fighters to operate. The only gun defence for these ships is provided by MONAS ISLE, and C. in C. Rosyth considers that one or more Flak ships should be provided to reinforce MONAS ISLE in patrolling the Tyne anchorages.

Convoy E.C.54 was heavily attacked several times off Orfordness and Yarmouth, the British KOOLGA, 1110 Tons, being damaged in the attack late at night near 54 D. Buoy.

South Atlantic.

Destroyers. Owing to the heavy U-boat concentration near Gibraltar, 3 South Atlantic destroyers have been ordered to join the North Atlantic Command temporarily, and WIVERN, WILD SWAN and BOREAS will leave Freetown at 0600/3 for Gibraltar, fuelling at Bathurst.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Style". Day 4, Force X arrived at Malta at 0900 and proceeded at 1640 with FARNDALE. At 1851B. Malta reported that FARNDALE had returned with defects. Early this morning HERMIONE, with Force X, rammed a submarine in 36° 21' N. 12° 40' E. and subsequently recovered a portion of the U-boat, wrapped round her stem. HERMIONE sustained only slight damage and is seaworthy. She was missed by a torpedo from aircraft this evening.

/Libya .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.8.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Libya and Western Desert.

While running supplies to Tobruk VENDETTA and HAVOCK were attacked at 2000 today by 20 to 30 German aircraft. 12 Hurricanes on patrol shot down four enemy aircraft and possibly two more for the loss of 3 of their own aircraft. No damage was caused to the ships.

Tobruk has been reopened after mining.

Alexandria Raid.

9 enemy aircraft raided Alexandria from 2110 to 2230 last night, dropping 3 mines in harbour, 3 on shore, and others believed well outside the reef. No military damage or casualties were caused.

East Indies.

Crozet Island.

Admiralty have reason to believe that a base for raiders has been established at Crozet Island, in the Southern Indian Ocean, 46.27 N. 52.14 E. A search is to be made as soon as possible.

Mine Watching.

C. in C.E.I. furnishes a list of ports on the station at which steps are being taken to establish mine watching organisations.

America and West Indies.

Belle Isle.

Commodore, Newfoundland, intends to re-establish the Belle Isle Strait patrol with BUCTOUCHE, arriving on patrol on 7/8.

New Zealand.

WARSPITE arrived at Honolulu today on her way to Bremerton Navy Yard, U.S.A.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

3.8.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Russian Operations.

The Soviet Union claim the following successes:-
(a) 4000 ton transport torpedoed by S/M whilst anchored at Hornigsvig 71° N. 26° E. 15/7.
(b) Minesweeper sunk by S/M off Varda (near Varanger Fiord.)
(c) S/M sunk by destroyer in 68° 20' N. 39° 40' E.
(d) Destroyer KARL GARLSTER sunk by air attack at Kirkenes 25/7.

Operation E.F.V.2.

FURIOUS, SUFFOLK, and 3 Destroyers returned to Seidis Fiord at 0530Z today from their operations in Varanger Fiord. They reported having sighted Force Q at 0400B yesterday in 71° 50' N. 1° 40' E.

Losses in aircraft crews have been heavy, but the Russians asked for immediate assistance and the effect on the enemy is reported to be great.

ARGUS is to cease training duties forthwith in order to leave the Clyde for a ferrying trip with Hurricanes and Naval Fighter A/C.

British Air Operations.

Shipyards at Kiel were the main naval targets of Bomber Command last night. Cherbourg was also attacked.

Fighters today hit and set fire to a mine-sweeper off Calais and a E-boat off Ambleteuse.

A Hurricane catapulted from MAPLIN today destroyed a F.W. which was shadowing S.L. 81 about 175 miles west of Ireland.

Enemy Air Activity.

2 Trawlers were attacked at 1230 off Sando, Faroe Islands, sustaining slight casualties.

/Convoy.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

3.8.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Convoy F.N.1 was unsuccessfully attacked this afternoon off Orfordness. Fighters shot down the aircraft.

Mining.

A Mine was detonated off the Tyne at 0703 today; and 2 heavy explosions were reported near B.8 off Harwich at 2320 last night.

Shipping and Convoys.

Tankers. A shuttle service of American tankers from Halifax to Iceland (C), whence cargoes will be transhipped to British tankers for U.K., will be begun shortly. Escort arrangements are outlined in Admty. 1743B/3.

Atlantic Convoys. The number of ships in Atlantic convoys is no longer to be limited to 40.

Balloons. From 6/8, balloons are to be provided for a proportion of British ocean going vessels proceeding in convoy to West Atlantic ports north of 8° N.

Japanese Shipping. Instructions have been sent to all Missions abroad that all applications by Japanese ships are to be referred to the Ministry of War Transport.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

3.8.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

A/S Operations

The escort group system for dealing with U/B attacks on convoys having proved successful in Western Approaches. Admty suggested today to C. in C. South Atlantic that it could now be adopted in his command.

Mediterranean.

Malta

No damage or casualties were caused in an air raid on Malta last night.

Operation "Style".

Day 5, Forces H and X R/V'd W.N.W. of Galita Island and proceeded westward. The Forces were shadowed by enemy aircraft but were not attacked.

S/M Operations.

UTMOST reports having blown up a train on an embankment on the southern shore of Gulf Euphemia (16° 06' E.) at 0100/28.

At 2001/28 she destroyed a 4000 ton southbound merchantman escorted by an A.M.C. in 39.31 N., 15.50 E.

Libya & Western Desert.

13 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night. A further 5 Wellingtons laid mines in the approaches to the harbour. Cyrene and Bardia were also bombed. An attack on Tripoli by 4 Blenheims is reported to have taken place p.m., presumably today; at least 2 merchant vessels are reported to have been hit and damaged.

Minesweeper SOTRA was damaged and her C.O. was killed by machine-gunning on passage to Tobruk at 2000 today.

Mersa Matruh was bombed last night, but little damage was caused.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

8.1941.
May.

SITUATION REPORT

America and West Indies.

The U.S. authorities report that KURIOSO recently at San Francisco has possibly RU, refuelled a Pacific raider.

U-Boat Campaign.

O.G.69

It is/known that 9 ships were torpedoed in Convoy O.G.69, as follows:-
ERATO, 26/7.
HAWKINGE, NORITA, WROTHAM, KELLWYN, and INGA I, 27/7.
LAPLAND, 28/7.
SHAHRISTAN, 29/7 or 30/7.
SITOEBONDO, 30/7.

S.S. MACON

LONDONDERRY today picked up the master and 18 men of S.S. MACON, who report that the ship was torpedoed and sunk on 24/7 about 455 miles west of Madeira.

S.L.81.

A Hurricane from MAPLIN this afternoon shot down a F.W. which was shadowing S.L.81 about 175 miles west of Ireland.
During the afternoon WANDERER and ST. ALBANS, escorting the convoy attacked a U-boat 450 miles west of Lands End and considered it sunk. HYDRANGEA and CAMPANULA were left to search the neighbourhood. At 2004 a U-boat, whether the same or another, surfaced and was attacked after diving and destroyed.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.8.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

ADVENTURE sailed from Archangel at 1000C today, SHROPSHIRE is to cover her return passage.

TIGRIS arrived at Murmansk this afternoon.

British Air Operations.

5 Whitleys attacked Calais dock and harbour installations last night.

Bomber Command operations were restricted today by bad weather. Shipping off the Dutch coast was attacked, but no special successes are claimed.

Enemy Air Operations.

TUNISIA in S.L. 81 was bombed and sunk this morning in 53° 53' N., 19° 2' W.

A.P. Trawler NORLAND reports being attacked at 2230 today in the Thames Estuary by an aircraft which crashed in flames. There is no report of damage to the trawler.

North Atlantic.

FRANKFURT scuttled.

CAVINA O.B.V., intercepted German FRANKFURT, which had left Rio de Janeiro on 27/6, at 0130Z/4 in 31.34 N., 37.42 W. She was scuttled and sunk. 26 prisoners were taken and there are 20 missing.

Operation Style.

Forces H. and X. returned to Gibraltar this evening.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.8.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

A.M.C.'s are no longer to be sailed as ocean escort to S.L. convoys which are provided with through A/S escort.

Mediterranean.

Malta. A few aircraft bombed Malta last night. No naval damage was caused.

CACHALOT sunk. An Italian official statement today claims that an Italian T.B. has rammed and sunk CACHALOT; 91 of the crew are reported to have been rescued and taken prisoners.

2 Blenheims sank an 800 ton schooner off Misurata today whilst searching for an intended target.

Libya & Western Desert. Tripoli convoys are now very heavily escorted in both directions, and the quick turn round of the last convoy suggests that troops are either arriving or leaving. There are reports of Panzer divisions being withdrawn far back.

8 Wellingtons bombed Derna port last night. 1 Wellington attacked shipping off the coast of Cyrénaica, 2 ships each of 5,000 tons are believed to have been hit 15 miles west of Apollonia.

Canal Area. There was a heavy air raid on Port Said and Suez in the early hours of today by a few aircraft ESCAUT was sunk and DESMOULEA was damaged, both by aerial torpedos. A ~~record~~ air raid occurred shortly afterwards.
S.S. ALEXANDRE ANDRE is reported to have been torpedoed under way 8 miles off Zafarana Light.
One U.X.B. or mine is suspected in Suez Roads and possibly one in the Canal. The Canal and terminal ports are open subject to mine sweeping.
No naval casualties were caused in either raid.

CARLISLE has left Alexandria for Suez as A.A. Guard ship.

Cyprus. Operation Guillotine is continuing.

MOST SECRET.

4.8.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

It is reported that the French S.S. DUPLEIX from Saigon bound for France has been intercepted by the Dutch and taken to Tanjong Priok.

U-Boat Campaign.

There were indications today that S.L.81 was being shadowed by U-boats and enemy aircraft. (See Enemy Air Operations).

WANDERER, escorting, sighted 3 U-boats on the surface between 1410B and 1540B today.

It is reported that the fishing schooner ROBERT MAX was sunk at 1900 G.M.T. today by gunfire from a submarine in 36° 47' N., 21° 15' W.

British Warships Losses

Date	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or sunk	Method
4.9.40	GARLAND	Destroyer	Damaged	Air attack (Mediterranean)
4.9.40	SAUCY	Rescue Tug	Sunk	Explosion (off Inchkeith)
6.9.40	M.T.B.32		Damaged	Fighter A/C (off Folkestone).
6.9.40	GODETIA	Sloop	Sunk	Collision (off Altacarry Hd.)
7.9.40	RHODORA	A/S Yacht	Sunk	Collision (off Cardiff)
7.9.40	OLYMPUS	Submarine	Slightly damaged	Air raid (Malta)
7/8.9.40	ABRONIA	H.M.Trawler	Sunk	Air attack (London Docks)
7/8.9.40	ANANDA	Ocean boarding vessel	Damaged. Total Wreck.	Air attack (London Docks)
7/8.9.40	INKOBI	Ocean boarding vessel	Damaged. Total loss.	Air attack (London Docks)
8.9.40	STORK	Sloop	Damaged	Air torpedo attack (Methil Roads)
9.9.40	DERVISH	A/P trawler	Sunk	Mine (off Humber L.V.)
11.9.40	ATHERSTONE	Destroyer	Damaged	Air attack (off East Coast).
11.9.40	M.T.B.29	-	Slightly damaged.	Shell fire (Dover Harbour)
11.9.40	M.T.B.71	-	Damaged by fire	Caused by shell fire (Dover Harbour).
15.9.40	BOTANIC	H.M.Trawler	Damaged	Air attack.(Dover Harbour)
15.9.40	DUNDER	Sloop	Sunk	S/M torpedo (N.W. Approaches).
15.9.40	KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL	H.M.Trawler	Slightly damaged	Air attack (Dover Harbour)
16.9.40	HOLDERNESS	Destroyer	Slightly damaged	Explosion (believed mine) ship serviceable. (Off North Foreland).
17.9.40	KENT	Cruiser	Damaged	Mined or torpedoed (N.E. of Bardia)
18.9.40	SUSSEX	Cruiser	Damaged	Bombed (Glasgow)

Date.	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or sunk	Method
21/24.9.40	LOCH INVER	H.M.Trawler	Presumed lost.	Off S.E. Coast.
22.9.40	VIVACIOUS	Destroyer	Damaged	Mine (? Thames Approaches
23.9.40	CUMBERLAND	Cruiser	Damaged	Shell fire (Dakar)
(23.9.40	VOLUNTEER	Destroyer	Damaged	Dakar)
23/25.9.40	BARHAM	Battleship	Slight damage. Fighting efficiency unimpared.	Dakar
do.	AUSTRALIA	Cruiser	do	Dakar
do.	DRAGON	Cruiser	do	do
do.	FORESIGHT	Destroyer	Damaged	Shell fire (Dakar)
do	INGLEFIELD	Destroyer	Slight damage. Fighting efficiency unimpared.	Dakar.
24.9.40	LOCH MONTEITH	A/S Trawler	Damaged	Mine suspected. (Off Portland Bill).
24.9.40	M.T.B.15	-	Sunk	Mine (Thames Estuary)
25.9.40	RESOLUTION	Battleship	Damaged	By torpedo (Dakar)
25.9.40	STELLA SIRIUS	A/S Trawler	Bombed, sunk.	Gibraltar.
26.9.40	M.T.B.6	-	Developed leak and sank.	Off Beachy Head
26.9.40	M.T.B.17	-	Slightly damaged.	Mine(Thames Estuary)
26.9.40	VETERAN	Destroyer	Slightly damaged.	Mine(Thames Estuary)
27.9.40	HALCYON	Minesweeper	Damaged	Mine (Off Middlesboro')
27/28.9.40	RECOIL	A/S Trawler	Disappeared Cause unknown, probably mine. (off Portland Bill).	
29.9.40	SAPPHO	A.P.Yacht	Considered lost.	Probably sunk by enemy surface craft. (East of Monacles)
30.9.40	COMET	A/S Trawler	Sunk	Mined (off Falmouth)
30.9.40	MALLARD	Corvette	Damaged	Bombed (Thames Approaches)

Date.	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or Sunk	Method
5.10.40	KINGSTON SAPPHIRE	Armed Boarding Vessel(Trawler)	Missing	Torpedoed (30 miles W. of C. Trafalgar)
7.10.40	HAMBLEDON	Destroyer	Damaged	Mine (Near Dover)
7.10.40	H.S.L.111	-	Damaged	Mine (Humber)
8.10.40	BURKE	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Bombed (Dover Harbour)
8.10.40	LOCUST	Gunboat	Damaged	Mine (Thames Estuary)
9.10.40	SEA KING	M/S Trawler	Sunk	Underwater explosion (Grimsby Roads).
10.10.40	GIRL MARY	Harbour defence patrol craft.	Sunk	Explosion (Firth of Forth)
11.10.40	AISHA	H.M.Yacht	Sunk	Mine (Thames Approaches)
11.10.40	ALYNBANK	A.A.Ship	Slightly damaged	Bombing (off Kinnairds Hd.)
11.10.40	IMPERIAL	Destroyer	Damaged	Mine (Off Delimara)
11.10.40	JERSEY	Destroyer	Damaged	Mine (Thames Approaches)
11.10.40	ZULU	Destroyer	Damaged	Mine (Beamer Rock)
12.10.40	AJAX	Cruiser	Slightly damaged.	In Action.(Mediterranean).
12.10.40	LISTRAC	A/S Trawler	Sunk	By enemy light craft, in approx. 56° 25' N. 2° 5' W.
12.10.40	06	French Chasseur	Missing, presumed sunk.	do.
12.10.40	07	do	do	do.
12.10.40	RESOLVO	M/S Trawler	Beached	Mined (Thames Approaches)
12. 10.40	WARWICK DEEPING.	A/S Trawler	Sunk	By enemy light craft in approx. 56° 25' N. 2° 5' W. (M020035/40)
13.10.40	DANUBE III	Examination Vessel	Sunk	Mine (Off Sheerness).
13.10.40	JANETHA IV	H.D.P. Yacht	Damaged	Mine (Off Sheerness).
13.10.40	SUMMER ROSE	M/S Drifter	Sunk	Mine (Off Sunderland).
14.10.40	CHESHIRE	A.M.C.	Damaged	Torpedoed (160 miles W. of Bloody Foreland).
14.10.40	COSSACK	Destroyer	Slight damage	Shell fire (Off Egr

Date.	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or Sunk.	Method
14.10.40	LIVERPOOL	Cruiser	Torpedoed Damaged.	Aircraft. (Between Crete and Alexandria).
14.10.40	LORD STAMP	A/S Trawler	Missing	Believed mined. (17 miles S.S.W. of Portland)
15.10.40	APPLETREE	Drifter	Sunk	In collision (off Lizmore Light)
15.10.40	MISTLETOE	Parachute Patrol Vessel	do	Mine. (Entrance to Humber).
16.10.40	DUNDALK	Fast Mine Sweeper	do.	Mine. (Off Harwich).
16.10.40	M.T.B.106	M.T.B.	do.	Mine. (Near Nore L.V.)
17.10.40	KINGSTON CAIRNGORM	A/S Trawler	do	Mine (Channel).
18.10.40	CLYTHNESS	H.M.Trawler	Damaged	Shell splinters.(Dover)
19.10.40	VELIA	H.M.Trawler	Sunk	Presumed mined. (Thames Approaches).
19.10.40	VENETIA	Destroyer	Sunk	Mine. (East Knob L.V.)
21.10.40	CLYTHNESS	M/S Trawler	Slightly damaged.	Shell fire. (Dover).
21.10.40	WAVEFLOWER	M/S Trawler	Sunk	Mine (off Aldeburgh)
22.10.40	HICKORY	do.	do.	Mine (South of Portland)
22.10.40	JOSEPH BUTTON	do.	do.	do.(off Aldeburgh)
22.10.40	MARGAREE	Canadian Destroyer	Presumed sunk.	Collision. (450' W. Slyne Head.)
25.10.40.	DUTHIES	F.A.A. Safety Vessel.	Sunk	A/C. bomb. (Montrose).
25.10.40.	LORD INCHCAPE	L.L. Trawler	Sunk	Mine. (Near Plymouth).
26.10.40	RAINBOW	S/M	Overdue presumed lost.	Mediterranean.
26.10.40	TRIAD	S/M	Overdue, presumed lost.	Mediterranean
27.10.40	PERSEVERE	m.b. Tender to K.D.6. Inchkeith.	Sunk	Mine. (off Firth of Forth)
28.10.40	HARVEST GLEANER	H.M.Drifter	Sunk	Aircraft attack. (off Southwold).

Date.	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or Sunk.	Method
28.10.40.	H.49	S/m.	Overdue, presumed lost.	On patrol (Texel).
28.10.40.	WALPOLE	Destroyer	Damaged	Mine. (Thames Approaches).
29.10.40.	ARCTIC TRAPTER	H.M. Trawler	Damaged	A/c attack. (Off Ramsgate).
30.10.40.	M.L.109	Motor Launch	Sunk	Mined. (Off Humber)
30.10.40.	STURDY	Destroyer	Grounded Total loss.	Tiree Is. W. Coast of Scotland.
31.10.40.	M.T.B.16	M.T.B.	Sunk	Mined. (Thames Estuary)
31.10.40.	M.T.B.22	M.T.B.	Damaged	Mined. (Thames Estuary)
1.11.40.	BLACK SWAN	Sloop	Damaged	Mined. (Off Belfast)
1.11.40.	PINTAIL	Corvette	Damaged	A/c attack. (13 miles N. of Yarmouth).
1.11.40.	ROYAL EAGLE	A.A. Vessel	Slightly Damaged	Thames Estuary
1.11.40.	SCHELDE	Rescue Tug	Overdue	Londonderry to Belfast.
1.11.40.	SEAMAN	Rescue Tug	Overdue	Londonderry to Belfast.
1.11.40.	TORBAY II	H.M. Drifter	Sunk	A/c near miss. (Dover)
1.11.40.	TILBURYNESS	M/S Trawler	Sunk	Bombed. (Gaze Deep)
2.11.40.	BRAS-D'OR	Auxiliary Minesweeper R.C.N.	Overdue since 19/10. Presumed lost.	? Canada.
2.11.40.	INTREPID	Destroyer	Damaged	Mined. (Off Hartlepool)
2.11.40.	MEDOC	Patrol Vessel	Damaged	Mine. (Plymouth)
2.11.40.	RADNOR CASTLE	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Mine. (Plymouth)
3.11.40.	GEORGE and ALBERT	A.P. Vessel	Sunk	Mine. (Off Hartlepool).
3.11.40.	LAURENTIC	A.M.C.	Sunk	Torpedoed. (West of Ireland)
3.11.40.	LORD COLLINGWOOD	H.M. Drifter	Dis-appeared	Thames to Methil.
3.11.40.	PATROCLUS	A.M.C.	Sunk	Torpedoed. (West of Ireland)

Date	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or Sunk	Method
4.11.40.	M.A/S.B.4	-	Sunk	Mined. (Near Fowey)
5.11.40.	JERVIS BAY	A.M.C. (Escort to H.X.84)	Sunk	Raider (North Atlantic)
6.11.40.	ELGIN	Fast Minesweeper	Slightly Damaged	Mine (Off Harwich)
6.11.40.	GIRL HELEN	Danlaying Drifter	Sunk	Mine (Off Tyne)
6.11.40.	SEVRA	M/S Trawler	Sunk	Mine (Off Falmouth)
7.11.40.	GREEN FLY	A/S Trawler	Slight Damage	WESTMINSTER's gunfire during A/c attack (Off Cromer)
7.11.40.	EGRET	Sloop	Slight Damage	Air attack (Thames Estuary)
7.11.40.	POULMIC	Free French mine watching vessel	Sunk	Mine (Plymouth)
7.11.40.	REED	H.M. Drifter	Sunk	Mine (Off Thames Estuary)
7.11.40.	WILLIAM WESNEY	M/S Trawler	Sunk	Mine (Off Orfordness)
8.11.40.	A.N.2	Harbour Defence Patrol Craft	Sunk	Mine (Off Falmouth)
8.11.40.	CATTISTOCK	Destroyer	Superficial damage	Bombing (Thames Estuary)
8.11.40.	MURIA ?	Rescue tug	Sunk	Mine (Off Ramsgate)
8.11.40.	WINCHESTER	A/A Destroyer	Damaged	Mine and Bombing (Thames Estuary)
9.11.40.	ELK	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Mine (Plymouth)
10.11.40.	KINGSTON AUBRETIA	A/S Trawler	Sunk	Mine (Off Plymouth)
10.11.40.	MARCELLE	Balloon barrage trawler.	Sunk	Mine (Near Cardiff)
10.11.40.	ST. MELANTE ?	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Mine (Plymouth)
11.11.40.	SARPEDON	H.M. Trawler	12 pdr. gun damaged	Air attack (Off Ramsgate)
11.11.40.	STELLA ORION	M/S Trawler	Sunk	Mine (Thames Estuary)

Date	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or Sunk.	Method
11.11.40.	VEGA	A/A. Destroyer	Damaged	Mine (Thames Estuary)
13.11.40.	DECOY	Destroyer	Damaged	Air Raid (Alexandria)
14.11.40.	LORD HOWE	H.M. Drifter	Damaged	Air Attack (Dover)
14.11.40.	M.L. 120	-	Casualties	" " (Thames Approaches)
14.11.40.	SHIPMATES	H.M. Drifter	Sunk	Aircraft (Dover)
14.11.40.	THE BOYS	H.M. Drifter	Foundered	Near S. Goodwins buoy.
14.11.40.	YORKSHIRE LASS	H.M. Drifter	Damaged	Air Attack (Dover)
15.11.40.	JEAN EDMUNDS	H.M. Trawler	Damaged & beached.	Mine (Inchkeith)
15.11.40	DUNGENESS	A/P Trawler	Beached,	Bombed (off Haisborough)
16.11.40.	ARSENAL	A/S. Trawler	Sunk	In Collision (off Greenock)
16/18.11.40.	SWORDFISH	S/M.	Lost	On patrol
18.11.40.	GO AHEAD	H.M. Drifter	Sunk in collision	
18.11.40.	SARPEDON	H.M. Trawler	Casualties	Air Attack (off Ramsgate)
19.11.40.	CRAIGMILLAR	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Air Attack (Thames Estuary)
19.11.40.	FONTENOY	M/S Trawler	Sunk	Air Attack (off Yarmouth)
19.11.40.	STAR OF PENTLAND	M/S Trawler	Casualties (? damage)	Air Attack (off Lowestoft)
19.11.40.	SUNSPOT	M/S Trawler	Damaged	A/C attack (off Lowestoft)
20.11.40.	GOORANGAI	Minesweeper R.A.N.	Sank	After collision (Port Phillip)
21.11.40.	022	Submarine	Overdue	From patrol off Skudesses.
21.11.40.	XMAS ROSE	H.M. Drifter	Sunk	By mine (Thames Approaches)
22.11.40.	ETHEL TAYLOR	A/P Trawler	Sunk	Mine (Tyne)
22.11.40.	M.L. 127	-	Blown up.	Cause uncertain (off Clacton)

Date	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or sunk.	Method.
23.11.40	GOOD DESIGN	M.F.V.	Blown up by mine.	Firth of Forth
23.11.40	K.3	Mine observation patrol craft	Blown up by mine	Off Inchkeith
23.11.40	NEW COMET	L.L. Trawler	Damaged	Mine, beached (Tyne)
23.11.40	SAILOR KING	H.M. Drifter	Mined	River Colne
24.11.40	AMETHIST	H.M. Trawler	Sunk	By mine (Thames Estuary)
24.11.40	GAEL	H.M. Yacht	Sunk	By mine (off Spurn Point)
24.11.40	M.L. 171	-	Slight damage by mine	By mine (Thames Estuary)
25.11.40	CONQUISTADOR	M/S Trawler	Sunk in collision	Thames Estuary
25.11.40	KENNYMORE	M/S Trawler	Sunk	By mine (Thames Estuary)
25.11.40	M.L. 111	-	Sunk	By mine (Humber)
26.11.40	MEDOC	A/P Trawler	Sunk by torpedo A/C.	? Western Approaches
27.11.40	BERWICK	Cruiser	Damaged	By shell fire (Western Mediterranean)
27.11.40	ELK	M/S Trawler	Sunk	By mine (off Peake Point)
27.11.40	PORT NAPIER	M/L	Destroyed by fire	? Port Z.A.
28.11.40	MANX PRINCE	LL Trawler	Sunk	By mine (off Spurn Head)
28/29.11.40	ABEILLE IV	Rescue Tug	Damaged	By enemy destroyers (off Lizard)
29.11.40	CALVERTON	LL Trawler	Sunk	By mine (off Spurn Point)
29.11.40	D.W.FITZGERALD	M/S Vessel	Damaged	By mine (off Spurn Point)
29.11.40	JAVELIN	Destroyer	Damaged	By torpedo by enemy destroyer (off Lizard)
29.11.40	RECONO	M/S Trawler	Damaged	By mine (off Humber)
29.11.40	TALONA	Balloon barrage drifter	Sunk	In collision with Tr. WRANGLER (Grimsby)
29.11.40	TARTAR	Destroyer	-	Suspected sabotage (Devonport)
30.11.40	CHESTNUT	M/S Trawler	Sunk	By mine (off Margate)

Date	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or Sunk	Method
30.11.40 / 1.12.40	HOBURG	?	Slight damage	By A/C attack (Southampton)
1.12.40	ASIE	A/S Trawler	Damaged	By bomb (Southampton)
1.12.40	FEZZARA II	A.P. Vessel	Sunk	By A/C. (Southampton)
1.12.40	GREENFINCH	Obs.Minelayer	Slight damage	By bomb splinters (Southampton)
1.12.40	HAWFINCH	Obs.Minelayer		
1.12.40	M.T.B. 30	-	Damaged	By shell fire (North Sea)
1.12.40	NEIL SMITH	M/S Trawler	Slight damage	By bomb splinters (Southampton)
1.12.40	PRESIDENT BRIAND	Minesweeper		
1.12.40	SAGUENAY	Destroyer	Torpedoed (damaged)	By submarine (N.W. Approaches)
?2.12.40		Minesweeper	Slightly damaged	By mine (Plymouth)
2.12.40	FORFAR	A.M.C.	Sunk	By torpedo (S/M) (N.W. Approaches)
3.12.40	GLASGOW	Cruiser	Damaged	By A/C torpedoes (Suda Bay)
4.12.40	LADY BRASSEY	Rescue tug	Slightly damaged	Air attack on Dover
5.12.40	CAMERON	Destroyer	Probably total loss (Refloated 23/2)	Bombed. (Portsmouth)
5.12.40	CARNARVON CASTLE	A.M.C.	Damaged	In action with raider (in S. Atlantic).
5.12.40	THISTLE	Examination Vessel.	Damaged	By bomb (Lowestoft)
6.12.40	YOUNG FISHER-MAN	Drifter (engagement 6)	Grounded total loss	Oban
7.12.40	CAPRICORNUS	M/S Trawler	Damaged	By close mine. (Thames Estuary)
7.12.40	LORMONT	Ex-guard ship	Sunk	In collision (off Humber)
?8.12.40	CARISBROOK	M/S Trawler	Damaged	By aircraft (Yarmouth)
8.12.40	CORTINA	M/S Trawler	Sunk	In collision (Off Humber)
8.12.40	MINNA	Examination Service vessel	Damaged	By mine (Firth of Forth)
8.12.40	WINDSOR	Destroyer	Damaged	By mine (off Aldeburgh)

Date	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or Sunk	Method
9.12.40	ROYAL SOVEREIGN	A.A. Ship	Sunk	By mine (off Cardiff)
10.12.40	REGULUS	Submarine	Overdue considered lost	Patrol in G. of Otranto and Adriatic.
11.12.40	JOHN ALFRED	Armed Drifter	Damaged	A/C. (near Brightlingsea)
13.12.40	COVENTRY	A.A. Ship	Damaged	Torpedoed by U-Boat (E. Mediterranean)
14.12.40	BRAMLEBAS	Torpedo-boat, ex-French, British manned	Foundered	Probably weather (English Channel)
17.12.40	ACHERON	Destroyer	Sunk	After explosion (Off the Needles)
17.12.40	CARRY ON	Balloon Barrage Drifter	Sunk	By mine (Sheerness)
17.12.40	THOMAS CONNOLLY	Boom Defence Vessel.	-	By mine (Sheerness)
18.12.40	REFUNDO	M/S Trawler	Sunk	By mine (Harwich)
18.12.40	TRITON	Submarine	Overdue	Mediterranean, Southern Adriatic.
20.12.40	PROFICIENT	Motor drifter	Total loss	Stranded on Whitby Sands (Tyne)
22.12.40	FORESIGHT	Destroyer	Damaged	In air attack on Liverpool.
22.12.40	GARTH	Destroyer	Engines damaged	By mine (Thames Estuary)
22.12.40	HYPERION	Destroyer	Sunk	By mine, Mediterranean. (Off Pantellaria)
23.12.40	PELTON	M/S Trawler	Sunk	By E-Boat (off Yarmouth)
?24.12.40	CHALKA	Armed boarding vessel	Slightly damaged	Air attack in Sollum roadstead.
23.12.40	WESTMINSTER	Destroyer	Slightly damaged	By E-Boat (off Lowestoft)
25.12.40	MERCURY	Paddle M/S	Sunk	By own mine (off Milford Haven)
26.12.40	M.A.C. 5	M/S Attendant Craft.	Sunk	By mine (Thames Estuary)
26.12.40	M.T.B. 29	M.T.B.	Sunk	After fouling boom (Harwich)
27.12.40	BLACKTHORN	M/S Trawler	Damaged	By enemy shell fire in convoy C.E. 20 (off Dover)

Date	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or Sunk.	Method
27.12.40	DEODAR	M/S Trawler	Damaged	By enemy shell fire in convoy C.E. 20 (off Dover)
28.12.40	Emergency	Destroyer	Minor damage	In Air Attack (Southampton)
28.12.40	NORSEMAN	Destroyer	Badly damaged	In Air Attack (Southampton)
28.12.40	RENOVELLE	A/P Motor boat.	Damaged	By mine (Mounts Bay)
30.12.40	BANDOLERO	A/S Trawler	Sunk in collision with WATERHEN	Gulf of Sollum
30.12.40	VENOMOUS	Destroyer	Damaged	By mine (Liverpool)
1. 1.41	ROTHERSLADE	A/P Trawler	Damaged by Mine	Off Tyne
3. 1.41	BARONIA	Boom Vessel	Damaged in Air Attack	Bristol
3. 1.41	ROCKROSE	Corvette	Damaged in Air Attack	Bristol
5. 1.41	LOWESTOFT	Sloop	Damaged by mine.	Thames Estuary
6. 1.41	LION	Barrage Balloon Tug.	Sunk by Mine	Thames Estuary
9. 1.41	PEKEN	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Air Attack (Yarmouth)
10. 1.41	GALLANT	Destroyer	Damaged	Mine (S.E. Pantellaria Mediterranean).
10. 1.41	ILLUSTRIOUS	Aircraft Carrier	Damaged	Air Attack. Pantellaria (Mediterranean)
11. 1.41	SOUTHAMPTON	Cruiser	Sunk	Air Attack (Central Mediterranean)
11. 1.41	GLOUCESTER	Cruiser	Damaged	Air Attack. (Central Mediterranean).
14. 1.41	FITZROY	Minesweeper	Damaged	Mine. (Harwich)
15. 1.41	ADVENTURE	Minelayer	Damaged	Mine. (Liverpool Bay)
16. 1.41	ARIGUANI	Ocean Boarding Vessel.	Damaged	Air Attack (Avonmouth)
16. 1.41	DESIREE	M/S Trawler	Sunk	Mine (Thames Estuary)
16. 1.41	ILLUSTRIOUS	Aircraft Carrier.	Damaged	Air raid (Malta)

Date	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or Sunk	Method
16.1.41	PERTH	Cruiser	Damaged	Air raid. (Malta)
16.1.41	ROMSEY	Examination Vessel.	Damaged	Mine. (Milford Haven)
17.1.41	RHODODENDRON	Corvettes	Damaged	Mine. (Liverpool)
17.1.41	SATA	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Mine. (Liverpool)
19.1.41	BERYL	A/S Vessel	Damaged	Air raid. (Malta)
19.1.41	DECOY	Destroyer	Damaged	Air raid. (Malta)
19.1.41	HONEYSUCKLE	Corvette	Slightly damaged.	Mine. (Liverpool)
19.1.41	ILLUSTRIOUS	Aircraft Carrier	Damaged	Air Raid. (Malta)
20.1.41	RELONZO	M/S Trawler	Sunk	Mine. (Liverpool)
21.1.41	ENGLISHMAN	Rescue Tug	Bombed, presumed sunk.	A/C. (off Tory Island).
22.1.41	OCEAN GAIN	Wooden Drifter	Sunk	Collision. (Harwich)
23.1.41	COURTIER	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Mine. (Milford Haven)
23.1.41	COVENTRY CITY	A/S Trawler	Slightly damaged.	A/C. (off Harwich)
25.1.41	RUNSWICK BAY	M/S Trawler	Slightly damaged.	Mine (Liverpool)
25.1.41	THEIR MERIT	M/S Trawler	Slightly damaged	A/C. (Great Yarmouth)
25.1.41	SELENE	R.A.F.Rescue Boat.	Total loss	Grounded. (Isle of Man)
26.1.41	BERVIE BRAES	M/S Trawler	Slightly damaged.	Mine. (Falmouth)
27.1.41	DAROGAH	H.M.Trawler	Sunk (salvage considered possible)	Mine. (In Thames Estuary)
29.1.41	SATURNUS	Balloon Barrage Vessel.	-	Mine. (Liverpool)
31.1.41 } 1.2.41 }	DORSETSHIRE	Hospital Ship.	Damaged	Air Attack. (off Sollum)
31.1.41	HUNTLEY	Minesweeper	Sunk	Air Attack. (off Gatruh, W. of Mersa Matruh).
31.1.41	M.L. 162	Motor launch	Damaged	Mine. (Milford Haven)

Date	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or Sunk.	Method
31.1.41	H.L. 165	Motor launch	Damaged	Mine. (Milford Haven)
2.2.41	ALMOND	M/S Trawler	Sunk	Mine. (off Falmouth)
3.2.41	CRISPIN	Ocean Boarding vessel. (Special A.A. vessel).	Sunk	Submarine (In N.W. Approaches)
3.2.41.	M.A/S.B. 12	-	Sank while in tow.	Mine. (off Milford Haven).
3.2.41	MIDAS	A/P drifter	Sunk	Collision (off Dungeness)
3.2.41	SOUTHERN CHIEF	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Mine. (off Milford Haven)
4.2.41	IMPAT	Wooden Steam Drifter.	Sunk	Collision (Scapa)
5.2.41	MENESTHEUS	Minelayer	Slightly damaged	Mine. (60° 23'N., 8° 3'W.)
5.2.41	TOURMALINE	A/S Drifter	Sunk	A/C. (off N.Foreland)
6.2.41	M/S Hopper No. 39	-	Mined ashore.	Suez Canal.
7.2.41	SINGAPORE 3.	Despatch Boat.	Sunk	Collision (Sheerness)
8.2.41	H.S.L. 142	M.S. Launch	Slightly damaged.	Mine (The Wash)
9.2.41	NEPTUNE	Cruiser	Slightly damaged.	A/C. (North Channel)
10.2.41	BOY ALAN	M/S Drifter	Sunk	Collision (off Shoeburyness)
11.2.41	SOUTHERN FLOE	A/S Trawler (South African whaler)	Sunk	Presumed mined (off Mersa Tobruk)
11.2.41	UMBROUS	LL Drifter	Ashore & Sunk.	Off Londonderry
12.2.41	EAGER	A/P Drifter	Slightly damaged	Fighting efficiency believed unaffected A/C. (Thames Estuary)
12.2.41	SEA ROAMER	A/P Motor Boat	Total loss.	Fire. (Brightlingsea)
13.2.41	RUBENS	A/S Trawler	Reported sinking	Believed sunk 22.2.41. Air attack (230 miles S.W. of Fastnet).
14.2.41	M.T.B. 41	M.T.B.	Sunk	Mine. (off Harwich)

Date	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or Sunk.	Method
14.2.41	SNAPPER	Submarine	Presumed lost	Patrol. (off Norway)
14.2.41	TEVIOT BANK	Minelayer	Damaged	A/C. (Flamborough Head)
15.2.41	WILLIAM H. HASTIE	Examination Vessel.	Grounded	(Not yet total loss) Kirkstay Bay (Shapinsay Sound).
16.2.41	ORMONDE	M/S Trawler	Sunk	A/C. (Cruden Scaurs)
16.2.41	SOUTHSEA	Paddle M/S	Damaged & beached.	Mine. (Tyne)
18.2.41	SARCHTA	A/P Trawler	Damaged	A/C. (off Lowestoft)
19.2.41	PELICAN	Sloop	Damaged	Mine. (Thames Estuary)
20.2.41	BRAMBLE	Minesweeper	Damaged	A/C. (off Harwich)
20.2.41	MARJORIE M HASTIE	LL Trawler	Sunk	Mine. (off Tyne)
20.2.41	OUSE	Trawler	Sunk	Mine. (Mersa Tobruk)
Between 20-26.2.41	DARKNESS	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Mine. (Swansea)
21.2.41	LINCOLN CITY	A/S Trawler	Sunk	Air Attack. (Faroes)
23.2.41	ERIDO	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Mine. (Swansea)
23.2.41	INVERFORTH	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Mine. (Swansea)
23.2.41	TEWARA	M/S Trawler	Slightly damaged	Mine. (Swansea)
24.2.41	DAINTY	Destroyer	Sunk	Air Attack (at Tobruk)
24.2.41	MANISTEE	Ocean boarding vessel.	Presumed sunk.	Submarine (in N.W. Approaches)
24.2.41	TERROR (officially paid off 10.3.41)	Monitor	Sunk	After air attacks (off Benghazi and Derna 22/2, 23/2.)
25.2.41	ECHODR	Hunt class destroyer	Sunk	Probably torpedoed by E-Boat off Lowestoft.
25.2.41	LADYBIRD	Gunboat	Slightly damaged	Air Raid (at Castelevitso)
25.2.41	SARNIA	Minesweeper	Sunk	Mine. (Suez Canal)
27.2.41	MAID OF KENT	M.L.	Sunk	Collision. (Portsmouth)
27.2.41	MONIMIA	M/S Trawler	Ashore (Not yet total loss)	Peterhead
27.2.41	REMILLO	A/P Trawler	Sunk	Mine. (Humber)
28.2.41	M.A/S.B. No.3	-	Damaged	Mine. (in England)

Date	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or Sunk	Method
1.3.41	HUGH WALPOLE	M/S Trawler	Damaged	A/C. (off Aberdeen)
1.3.41	PLOUGH BOY	M/S Trawler	Damaged, beached.	Mine. (Malta)
1.3.41	ST. DONATS	M/S Trawler	Sunk	Collision (off Humber)
3.3.41.	COBBERS	A/P Trawler	Sunk	A/C. (off Lowestoft)
5.3.41.	LUDA LORD	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Mine. (off Plymouth)
7.3.41	BASINAGE	S.A. Trawler	Damaged	Mine. (North Shields)
7.3.41	DEVON	A.P. Trawler	Damaged	Air Attack (Harwich)
7.3.41	IMPERIAL	Destroyer	Slight damage.	Air raid. (Malta)
7.3.41	M.T.B. 28	-	Destroyed by fire.	Accident (Portsmouth)
7.3.41	SHELDRAKE	Corvette	Damaged	E-Boat torpedo (off Cromer)
9.3.41	GULFOSS	M/S Trawler	Sunk	Mine (off Dungeness)
9.3.41	HATSUSE	M/S Trawler	Damaged (Salved 11/3).	Mine. (Plymouth)
9.3.41	M.G.B. 61	M.G.B	Slight damage	Air Attack (Portsmouth)
9/10.3.41	CATTISTOCK	Destroyer	Slightly damaged	Air Attack (Thames Estuary)
10/11.3.41	CAPE SPARTEL	M/S Trawler	Slightly damaged	Air Attack (Portsmouth)
10/11.3.41	CHASSEUR 43	S/M Chaser	Slightly damaged	Air Attack (Portsmouth)
10/11.3.41	MARSHAL SOULT	Base Ship	Slightly damaged	Air Attack (Portsmouth)
10/11.3.41	OUR BAIRNS	M/S Trawler	Slightly damaged	Air Attack (Portsmouth)
10/11.3.41	SHERWOOD	Destroyer	Damaged	Air Attack (Portsmouth)
10/11.3.41	TOKYO II	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Air Attack (Portsmouth)
10/11.3.41	TYNEDALE	Destroyer	Damaged	Air Attack (Portsmouth)
10/11.3.41	WITHERINGTON	Destroyer	Damaged	Air attack (Portsmouth)

Date	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or Sunk.	Method
10/11.3.41	YASHIMA	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Air Attack (Portsmouth)
14.3.41	JEANNIE LEASK	LL.Drifter	Damaged	Mine. (off Harwich)
14/15.3.41	CERVEZA	Motor Boat	Damaged	Air Attack. (Clyde)
14/15.3.41	ANTHONY	Destroyer	Superficial damage	Air Attack (Glasgow)
14/25.3.41	EASTERN ISLES	A/S Training Ship.	Damaged	Air Attack (Glasgow)
15.3.41	BRITONART	Minesweeper	Damaged	Air Attack (Rye Bay)
15.3.41	-	Minesweeper	Damaged	Mine. (Suez Canal)
17.3.41	LADY LILLIAN	A/S Trawler	Sunk	N.W. Approaches
17.3.41	M.G.B. 42	M.G.B.	Damaged	Mine. (Mounts Bay)
17.3.41	MOLLUSC	A/S Yacht	Sunk	Air Attack. (Blyth)
18.3.41	ROSAURA	Armed boarding vessel	Sunk	Mine. (Mersa Tobruk)
19.3.41	HELVELLYN	Pad. Minesweeper	Sunk	Air Attack. (London)
19/20.3.41	CATERINA	Harbour Defence Patrol ship.	Damaged	Air Attack. (London)
19/20.3.41	HELVELLYN	Small A/A	Sunk in Dock	Air Attack. (London)
21.3.41	ASAMA	M/S Trawler.	Sunk	A/C. (Plymouth Sound)
21.3.41	DEFENDER	Destroyer	Slight Damage.	Air Attack (Malta)
22.3.41	CHABOOL	Tug	Overdue presumed lost.	Gulf of Aden
22.3.41	COMPUTATOR	M/S Trawler	Slight damage.	A/C. (off Portland)
22.3.41	JEANNIE LEASK	LL.Drifter	Damaged	A/C. (Brightlingsea)
23.3.41	BONAVENTURE	Cruiser	Slight damage	Air Attack (Malta)
23.3.41	GRIFFIN	Destroyer	Slight damage.	Air Attack (Malta)
24.3.41	WILNA	A/S Yacht	Sunk	A/C. (off the Nab)
25.3.41	M.L. 139	M.L.	Slight damage	A/C. (Dungeness)
26.3.41	MENESTHEUS	Minesweeper	Slight damage (Ship can continue to operate).	A/C. (Faroes-Shetland Passage)

Date	Vessel	Type of Vessel	Damaged or Sunk.	Method
26.3.41	TROUT	A/P Motor boat	Damaged	A/C. (Shetland Bay)
26.3.41	YORK	Cruiser	Damaged	Torpedo, 1 man S/M (Suda Bay)
?	OTTER	Auxiliary Craft R.C.N.(converted yacht)	Destroyed by fire	Off Canadian Coast. (Times 28.3.41)
31.3.41	BONAVENTURE	Cruiser	Sunk by S/M.	Off Crete
31.3.41	LORD SELBORNE	A/P Trawler	Sunk	Mine. (off Humber)
1.4.41	QUORN	Destroyer	Minor damage	A/C. (off Orfordness)
1.4.41	SWORD DANCE	A/S Trawler	Damaged	A/C (near Outer Dowsing)
1/2.4.41	HORTENSIA	M/S Trawler	Damaged	A/C. (off Cromer)
1/2.4.41	VALESCA	M/S Trawler	Damaged	A/C. (off Cromer)
2.4.41	CRAMOND ISLAND.	A/P Trawler	Sunk	A/C. (off St. Abb's Head)
2.4.41	LORNA DOONE	Paddle Minesweeper	Slightly damaged	A/C. (off Lowestoft)
2.4.41	SILVER DAWN	Mine Recovery Vessel.	Slight damage	? A/C. (Brightlingsea)
2/3.4.41	FORTUNA	A/P Trawler	Sunk	? A/C. (off Berwick)
3.4.41	ABINGDON	Minesweeper	Slight superficial damage.	Air raid (Malta)
3.4.41	BAHRAM	Harbour Defence Patrol Craft	Sunk	Mine. (off Spurn Head)
3.4.41	FIR	M/S Trawler	Damaged & beached	Mine. (off Polruan)
3.4.41	WORCESTER-SHIRE	A.M.C.	Damaged	Torpedoed 58.16 N., 27.30 W.
4.4.41	BUFFALO	Mooring Vessel.	Sunk	Mine (Singapore)
6.4.41	COMORIN	A.M.C.	Destroyed by fire.	54° 34'N., 21° 20'W.
6.4.41	TORRENT	A/S Yacht	Sunk	Mine. (off Falmouth)
7.4.41	CAPETOWN	Cruiser	Damaged	Torpedoed by E-boat (off Kuba, Red Sea.)
7.4.41	ROCHEBOUNE	M/S Trawler	Sunk	A/C. (off Lizard)

H.M.Ships Damaged of Sunk- Contd.

Date	Name	Description	How Damaged or Sunk.	Position
Claimed by Germans 5th 4.4.41.	VOLTAIRE	A.M.C.	Sunk	By Raider Announced by Admty 5/5.
6/7.4.41.	SURF T 98	Believed Naval Auxiliary	Sunk	By A/C at Piraeus.
6/7.4.41.	Caique HALCYON	-do-	Sunked	-do-
8.4.41.	LORNA DOONE	Paddle M/S	Damaged	A/C., Harwich
8.4.41.	MOOR (Not in Red List)	Mooring Vessel	Destroyed	Mine Malta
8/9.4.41.	KROOMAN	Tug	Damaged	A/C Yarmouth
9.4.41.	ANNABELLE	Barrage Balloon Tr.	Slight Damage	A/C off Rattray Head
9.4.41.	BEN GAIRN	M/S Tr.	Damaged	A/C off Lowestoft.
9.4.41.	CLOUGHSTONE	Barrage Balloon Tr.	Slight Damage	A/C off Rattray Head
9.4.41.	CRAIG BO	Examination Vessel	-do-	A/C off Aberdeen
9.4.41.	D'ARCY COOPER	Examination Steamer	Sunk	A/C at Harwich
9.4.41.	FALCON	W.D. Launch	Sunk	A/C Harwich
9.4.41.	INVERTAY	M/S Tr.	Slight Damage	A/C off Aberdeen
9.4.41.	MARMION	Paddle M/S	Damaged	A/C at Harwich
9.4.41.	SAPPHIRE	A/S Tr.	-do-	A/C off Humber
9.4.41.	VARANGA	LL. Tr.	-do-	Mine. Mersey
11.4.41.	M.T.B. 35.		Damaged in action.	50°7' N., 17'E Approx.
11.4.41.	OTHELLO	Boom Def. Trawler.	Sunk	Mine. Humber
11.4.41.	YORKSHIRE BELLE	Boom Def. Tender.	Sunk	Mine. Humber
12.4.41.	RETRIEVER (Not in Red list)	Cable Ship	Sunk	A/C bombs. Off Phleva, Greece.

Date	Name	Description	How Damaged or Sunk.	Position
13.4.41.	DE LA POLE	A/P. Tr.	Slight damage.	A/C Lowestoft.
13.4.41.	RAJPUTANA	A.M.C.	Sunk	Torpedoed off Iceland.
13.4.41.	STRATHMAREE	A/P Tr.	Slight damage	A/C Lowestoft
14.4.41.	CONQUERANTE	Free French M/S Vessel.	Damaged and beached	A/C Truro River
14.4.41.	SUIPPE	-do- (laid up)	Sunk	A/C Truro River
14.4.41.	VITA	Hospital Ship.	Damaged	? A/C, Tobruk.
15.4.41.	GNAT	Gunboat	Damaged	Shore Battery Sollum Bay.
15.4.41.	SATA	M/S Trawler	Damaged	Mine Liverpool
16.4.41.	LAUREL	M/S Trawler	-do-	A/C Sheringham
16.4.41.	MOHAWK	Destroyer	Sunk	Kerkenah Bank Tunis. Torpedoed by enemydestroyer.
18.4.41.	FIONA	A.B.V.	Sunk	A/C 50 miles N.W. Sidi Barrani.
18.4.41.	WYOMING	A/P Trawler	Damaged	A/C off Tyne
18.4.41.	YOUNG ERNIE	A/P Drifter	Sunk	Collision off Tynemouth.
19.4.41.	KOPANES	A/P Trawler	Sunk	A/C off Tyne
19.4.41.	MINERVE	Free French Submarine	Damaged	by d.c's off Norway.
19/20.4.41.	CONSOLATION	M/S Drifter	Ship undamaged, but equipment ashore destroyed.	A/C London docks
	FORERUNNER	-do-		
	JEANNIE DEANS	Pad. M/S		
	ROSEBUD	M/S Drifter		
	WINCHESTER	Destroyer		
19/20.4.41.	WILD SWAN	Destroyer	Slight damage.	A/C London docks
20.4.41.	TOPAZE	A/S Tra.	Sunk	Collision with RODNEY

Date	Name	Description	How Damaged or Sunk.	Position
21.4.41.	GREYHOUND	Destroyer	Slight Damage	Air Raids, Tobruk.
21.4.41.	MEDWAY	Launch	Sunk	Collision ? Sheerness.
21/23.4.41.	LEWES	Destroyer	Damaged	A/C off Plymouth
21/23.4.41.		A/S Trawlers	Damaged	Air Raids Malta
22.4.41.	CHRYSOLITE	M/S Trawler	Slight damage.	Off Aberdeen
22.4.41.	DOROTHY LAMBERT	-do-	-do-	-do-
22.4.41.	NORTHERN REWARD	H.M.T.	Damaged	A/C., Aberdeen.
22.4.41.	REGENT	Submarine	Slight damage	A/C at Kotor
22.4.41.		M/S	Slight damage	Mine in Thames Estuary.
24.4.41.	YORK	Cruiser	Slight damage	A/C, Suda Bay.
24/25.4.41.	ULSTER PRINCE	Supply ship	Stranded afterwards destroyed by bombing	At Nauplia during Operation "Demon"
25.4.41. Reported 25.4.41.	MUROTO YORK.	? Transport Cruiser.	Damaged Damaged.	By A/C at Suda Bay. A/C Suda Bay.
Night 25/ 26.4.41.	PENNLAND	Transport	Sunk	By A/C Megara Operation "Demon"
26.4.41.	DONNA NOOK	A/P Tr.	Damaged	A/C Tyne
Reported 26.4.41.	ROVER	Submarine	Damaged	By A/C Suda Bay.
-do-	YORK	Cruiser	Slight Damage	-do-
-do-	GENEARN	S.S.vessel	Damaged	By A/C 37° 5' N 23° 3' E. (Operation "Demon")
Night 26/ 27.4.41.	SLAMAT	Transport	Sunk	A/C at Nauplia (Operation "Demon")

Date	Name	Description	How Damaged or Sunk.	Position
Reported 27.4.41.	COSTA RICA	Transport	Sunk	A/C at Nauplia (Operation "Demon")
Night 26/ 27.4.41.	DIAM ND	Destroyer	Sunk	By A/C at 36° 30' N., 23° 34 W. (Operation "Demon")
27.4.41.	PATIA	A/A Ship	Sunk	By A/C torpedo off Tyne (Operation "Demon")
27.4.41.		Trawler	Damaged	Off Wick whilst assisting SS MELISKERK
Night 26/ 27.4.41.	WRYNECK	Destroyer	Sunk	By A/C 36° 30' N 23° 34' W., (Operation "Demon")
28.4.41.	CAROLINE	R.Netherlands M/S	Sunk	By mine off Milford Haven
Night 28/ 29.4.41.	ONS WELZYN (pl2.)	A/P Vessel	Damaged	By A/A at Devonport
Night 28/ 29.4.41.	OSCAR AUGUSTE (P. 2)	-do-	Sunk	-do-
29.4.41.	CHAKLA	A.M.C.	Damaged Beached, Upper deck awash.	A/C Tobruk
29.4.41.	Harbour Launch No 278		Blown up.	Mine at Portsmouth.
29.4.41.	M.G.B. 61		Slightly damaged	By E-Boats off Brown Ridge.
29/ 30.4.41.	ENCOUNTER	Destroyer	Badly damaged (~~paid off~~)	A/C Malta
29/ 30.4.41.	FERMOY	Minesweeper	Badly Damaged	A/C Malta ~~Operation~~ D~~emon~~.
29/ 30.4.41.	PESSAC	A/P Vessel	Sunk	A/C Plymouth

Date	Name	Description	How Damaged or Sunk.	Position
29/ 30.4.41.	PEUPLIER	Blockship	Sunk	A/C Plymouth
29/ 30.4.41.	PRINCE CHARLES	SS Vessel	Slight damage	-do-
29/ 30.4.41.	TRINIDAD	Cruiser (Completing)	-do-	-do-
30.4.41.	ABINGDON	Minesweeper	Damaged	Mine, Malta
30.4.41.	ERNE	Sloop	Damaged	A/C off Kinnaird Head.
30.4.41.	GLENGYLE	SS Vessel	Damaged	A/C Greek Evacuation.
30.4.41.	MOUCOUSCU	Ammn. Hulk.	Sunk.	A/C Plymouth
30.4.41.	NUBIAN	Destroyer	Damaged	A/C ~~Greek.~~ Operation Evacuation - Demon.
30.4.41.	PARVATI	A/S Vessel R.I.N.	Sunk	Mine, 13.11N., 42.54 E.
30.4.41.	PRESENT FRIENDS	Safety Drifter	Damaged	A/C off Tintagel Head.

H.M. Ships Sunk or Damaged by Enemy Action - Contd.

Date	Name	Type	How Damaged or Sunk.	Position
3/ 4.5.41.	SIRIUS	Cruiser (Building)	Slightly damaged.	A/C Portsmouth
4.5.41.	ADVENTURE	Minelayer	Slightly damaged	A/C Liverpool
4.5.41.	BENGAIRN	M/S Tr.	Sunk	Mine, Lowestoft
Reported 4.5.41.	GLOUCESTER	Cruiser	Damaged	A/C, on passage Malta to Gib.
4.5.41.	KARAPARA	Hospital Ship	Damaged	A/C, Mersa Tobruk.
4.5.41.	NIBLICK	H.M.Tr.	Damaged	Mine Lowestoft
4.5.41.	SELKIRK	Fleet Minesweeper	Damaged	A/C Harwich
4.5.41.	SOUTHDOWN	Destroyer	Damaged	A/C By 62.D. Buoy.
Night 4/ 5.5.41.	BRYONY	Corvette	Badly Damaged	A/C Belfast
-do-	BUTTERCUP	Corvette	-do-	-do-
-do-	FRANC TIREUR	A/P Tr.	Damaged	A/C Harwich
-do-	FURIOUS	A/C Carrier	-do-	A/C Belfast
-do-	LA MALOUINE	Corvette	Badly damaged	-do-
-do-	PEGASUS	Fighter Catapult ship.	Damaged	-do-
5.5.41.		Blockship	Sunk	A/C Lowestoft
5.5.41.	SUMBA	M/S Tr.	Damaged	A/C Barry Rds.
5/ 6.5.41.	BLUESTONE	Motor Boat	Hit in Dock Probably Total Loss.	A/C Greenock
Night 5/ 6.5.41.	DUCHESS OF ROTHESAY	Paddle M/S	Damaged	A/C Harwich
-do-	GOWAN HILL	Examination Service V.	Hit in Dock Probably Total loss.	A/C Greenock

H.M. Ships Sunk or Damaged by Enemy Action-Contd.

Date	Name	Type	How Damaged or Sunk.	Position
Night 5/ 6.5.41	NEIL MACKAY	A/S Tr.	Damaged	A/C Harwich
6.5.41.	CAMITO	O.B.V.	Sunk	S/M 50° 36' N 21° 35' W.
Reported 6.5.41.	MIMOSA (?Naval not in red list)	Air Rescue Craft	Damaged	A/C Liverpool
6.5.41.	ROBERTS	Monitor	Slight damage	A/C Greenock
Reported 6.5.41.	VAN ORLEY	A/S Tr.	Badly damaged	A/C Liverpool
6/ 7.5.41.	PAKENHAM		Badly damaged	A/C Glasgow
-do-	ROBERTS	Monitor	-do-	-do-
7.5.41.	STOKE	Minesweeper	Sunk	A/C Tobruk
7.5.41.	SUSARION	A/P Tr.	Sunk	A/C Humber
7.5.41.	SVANA	Minesweeper	Slight damage.	A/C Tobruk
7/ 8.5.41.	HURRICANE	Destroyer	Badly damaged	A/C Liverpool
-do-	JUSTIFIER	M/S Drifter	Damaged	A/C Hull
-do-	MAPLIN	Catapult Ship.	Slightly damaged	A/C Liverpool
-do-	VISCOUNT	Destroyer	Badly Damaged.	-do-
-do-	VIVACIOUS	-do-	Slightly damaged	A/C Hull
-do-	WHADDON	-do-	-do-	-do-
8.5.41.	GRAMPION	M/S Tr.	-do-	A/C off Aberdeen.
8.5.41.	SILICIA	M/S Tr.	Sunk	Mine Humber
8.5.41.	THISTLE	Examination Vessel	Sunk	Mine Lowestoft
Reported 8.5.41.	UBERTY	A/P Drifter	Sunk	A/C Lowestoft

H.M. Ships Sunk or Damaged by Enemy Action-Contd.

Date	Name	Type	How Damaged or Sunk.	Position
8.5.41.	VIVA II	A/S Yacht	Sunk	A/C off Trevose Head
9.5.41.	EMPIRE SONG	Transport	Sunk	Mine, Malta Operation Tiger'
9.5.41.	FORESIGHT	Destroyer	Slightly damaged.	Mine debris, Malta.
9.5.41.	QUEENWORTH	M/D Ship	Sunk	A/C Off Humber
9.5.41.	URANIA	? Transport or Supply S.	Damaged	A/C Tobruk
10.5.41.	CHASSEUR 41	S/M Chaser	Slightly damaged	A/C Near Nab Tower
10.5.41.	FORTUNE	Destroyer	Damaged	A/C Western Mediterranean.
10.5.41.	M.L. 1011	M.L.	Sunk	A/C Eastern Mediterranean
Night 10/ 11.5.41.	ALTAIR	A/P Motor Boat.	Sunk	A/C London
-do-	COMET I	-do-	-do-	-do-
-do-	FALAISE	-do-	-do-	-do-
-do-	IGLOO	-do-	-do-	-do-
-do-	JAKE II	-do-	-do-	-do-
-do-	MISS ENGLAND	-do-	-do-	-do-
-do-	NOMAD III	-do-	-do-	-do-
-do-	SAFARI	-do-	-do-	-do-
11.5.41.	CAMEL	Tug (Believed Naval)	Damaged	A/C Plymouth
11.5.41.	EUNICE AND NELLIE.	Drifter	Slightly damaged.	A/C presumably off Brightling-sea.
11.5.41.	GOATFELL	Eagle Ship under conversion	Damaged	A/C London
11.5.41.	GYPSEY	A/P Depot Ship	Sunk	A/C London
Night 11/ 12.5.41.	BEEHIVE	Base Ship Parkeston Quay.	Damaged	A/C

H.M. Ships Sunk or Damaged by Enemy Action- Contd.

Date	Name	Type	How Damaged or Sunk.	Position
12.5.41.	LADYBIRD	River Gun Boat.	Sunk (may be salved	A/C Tobruk
13.5.41.	SALOPIAN	A.M.C.	Sunk	56° 43' N., 38° 57' E. By S/M torpedo.
13.5.41.	USK	Submarine 3/5	Overdue since 3/5 considered lost.	On Patrol, Cape Bon, Mediterranean.
14.5.41.	M.A.WEST	Examination Vessel	Sunk	A/C off Yarmouth.
14.5.41.	MINICOY	Harbour Defence vessel	Sunk	Mine. Milford Haven.
14.5.41.	No 316	R.A.F. Launch	Sunk	-do-
? 14.5.41.	PURIRI	Minesweeper (New Zealand)	Sunk	Mine, Hauraki Gulf.
15.5.41.	M.T.B. 50	M.T.B.	Damaged	A/C off Dover
16.5.41.	ENCOUNTER	Destroyer	Damaged	A/C Malta
16.5.41.	FERMOY (Sunk in Dock, 4/5)	Minesweeper	Written off being broken up.	A/C Malta
16.5.41.	UNDAUNTED	Submarine	Overdue Considered lost.	Patrol off Tripoli (Africa)
17.5.41.	ABA	Hospital Ship	Damaged	A/C, south of Kaso Strait.
17.5.41.	COVENTRY	A/A Cruiser	Slightly damaged	A/C, south of Kaso Strait
18.5.41.	HILDA	Balloon Barrage Vessel.	Damaged	Mine, Liverpool.
18.5.41.	OLNA	Oiler	Damaged	A/C Suda Bay
18.5.41.	SALVIA	Corvette	Damaged	A/C Suda Bay
Reported 18.5.41.	WIDNESS	Minesweeper	Damaged	A/C Suda Bay
18.5.41.	YORK	Cruiser	Damaged	A/C Suda Bay
19.5.41.	CITY OF ROCHESTER	Paddle Steamer. (Govt. owned)	Sunk	A/C Mine Rochester

H.M. Ships Sunk or Damaged by Enemy Action-Contd.

Date	Name	Type	How Damaged or Sunk.	Position
19.5.41.	COMPUTATOR	M/S Trawler	Slightly damaged.	A/C off Portland
19.5.41.	DARTHEMA	-do-	-do-	-do-
20.5.41.	KOS 22	Whaler	Damaged	A/C Suda Bay
20.5.41.	WIDNES	Minesweeper	-do-	-do-
21.5.41.	JUNO	Destroyer	Sunk	A/C Meditn. 34.35N. 26.34E.
21./ 26.5.41.		Destroyer	Damaged	A/C Eastern Mediterramean
-do-		-do-	-do-	-do-
-do-		-do-	-do-	-do-
-do-		-do-	-do-	-do-
22.5.41.	CARLISLE	A/A Ship	Slight damage	A/C off Crete
22.5.41.	FIJI	Cruiser	Sunk	-do-
22.5.41.	GLOUCESTER	Cruiser	Sunk	-do-
22.5.41.	GREYHOUND	Destroyer	Sunk	-do-
22.5.41.	NAIAD	Cruiser	Damaged	-do-
22.5.41.	NAUTILUS	Dutch Minelayer	Sunk	Collision off Humber.
22.5.41.	ORION	Cruiser	Damaged	A/C off Crete
22.5.41.	VALIANT	Battleship	Damaged	-do-
22.5.41.	WARSPITE	-do-	-do-	-do-
22.5.41.	KASHMIR	Destroyer	Sunk	A/C 34° N., 24° E.
23.5.41.	KELLY	Destroyer	Sunk	A/C 34° N., 24° E.
24.5.41.	HOOD	Battlecruiser	Sunk	In action in Atlantic.
24.5.41.	LOGICIAN	Transport or Supply Ship.	Sunk	A/C Suda Bay
Loss announced 29.5.41.	YORK	Cruiser	Total loss after damage 26/3, 24/4, 26/4 etc.	Suda Bay

H.M. Ships Sunk or Damaged by Enemy Action-Contd.

Date	Name	Type	How Damaged or Sunk	Position
24.5.41.	PRINCE OF WALES	Battle ship	Damaged	In action in N. Atlantic.
25.5.41.	GRIMSBY	Sloop	Sunk	A/C 40' N.E. Tobruk.
26.5.41.	FORMIDABLE	A/C Carrier	Damaged	A/C Eastern Mediterranean
26.5.41.	GLENROY	Special Services Vessel.	Damaged (fit for service)	A/C off Crete
26.5.41.	NUBIAN	Destroyer	Damaged	A/C Eastern Mediterranean
27.5.41.	BARHAM	Battleship	Damaged	A/C 32° 45' N 28° 20' E.
27.5.41.	COSSACK	Destroyer	Slight Damage	In action N. Atlantic.
27.5.41.	EVESHAM	A/P Trawler	Sunk	A/C off Yarmouth.
27.5.41.	REGISTAN	O.B.V.	Damaged	A/C off C. Cornwall.
27.5.41.	ZULU	Destroyer	Slight damage	In action N. Atlantic.
28.5.41.	AJAX	Cruiser	Damaged	A/C Eastern Mediterranean
28.5.41.	MASHONA	Destroyer	Sunk	A/C Western Approaches.
Night 28/ 29.5.41.	IMPERIAL	Destroyer	Sunk	A/C off Crete.
29.5.41.	DIDO	Cruiser	Damaged	A/C Eastern Mediterranean.
29.5.41.	HEREWARD	Destroyer	-do-	-do-
29.5.41.	ORION	Cruiser	-do-	-do-
30.5.41.	CAIRNDALE	(R.F.A.) Oiler.	Sunk	Submarine 35° 19' N., 8° 35' W
? 31.5.41.	PERTH	Cruiser	Damaged	A/C off Crete
Reported 31.5.41.	NAPIER	Destroyer	Damaged	-do-
1.6.41.	CALCUTTA	A/A Cruiser	Sunk	A/C Eastern Mediterranean

H.M. Ships Sunk or Damaged by Enemy Action- Contd.

Date	Name	Type	How Damaged or Sunk	Position
Reported 1.6.41.	FALK	Aux A/S Vessel	Damaged	A/C Tobruk.
1.6.41.	STORA	H.M.Trawler	Destroyed by accident.	Aberdeen.

Vichy French Ships

Sunk, scuttled, captured or damaged.

Date	Name	Details
16.9.40.	POITIERS	Scuttled. Intercepted by CUMBERLAND, off Bathurst.
1.1.41.	CHANTILLY RAUZAN SALLY MAERSK OCTANE	Intercepted by BONAVENTURE, 13th D.F. and armed trawler LA TOULONNAISE, off Cape Tresforcas.
10.1.41.	CANTAL	Intercepted by MARON, about 350 miles W.S.W. of Casablanca.
13.1.41.	MENDOZA	Intercepted by ASTURIAS off Montevideo. Allowed to proceed.
18.1.41.	MENDOZA	Intercepted by ASTURIAS off Punta das Cabecundas Light. Sent into Freetown.
? 21.1.41.	JEAN L.D.	Intercepted by Force K. in South Atlantic. Sent to Cape-town.
26.1.41.	SONTAY	Intercepted by Force T. in Southern Indian Ocean. Armed guard from ENTERPRISE put on board. Sent into Durban.
28.1.41.	DESIRADE	Intercepted by DUNEDIN and DEVONSHIRE in South Atlantic Released
30.1.41.	CAPITAINE PAUL LEMERLE.	Intercepted by COMORIN, in West Atlantic. Released, as in American Neutrality Zone.
18.2.41.	FORT RICHEPANSE	Intercepted by REGISTAN, North Atlantic, sent into Gibraltar.
18.2.41.	P.L.M. 13 LORIENT	Intercepted by MARSDALE, North Atlantic, sent into Gibraltar.
1.3.41.	VILLE DE MAJUNGA	Intercepted by CORNWALL, South Atlantic, sent into Capetown.
2.3.41.	VILLE DE STRASBOURG	Intercepted by SHROPSHIRE, East Indies, sent into Durban
22.3.41.	PIERRE POCHOLE (Trawler)	Intercepted by MARSDALE, North Atlantic, sent into Gibraltar.
23.3.41.	CHARLES L.D.	Intercepted by LEANDER, East Indies, sent into Mauritius.

Date	Name	Details
8.4.41.	FORT DE FRANCE	Intercepted by BULOLO in 27° 19' N., 28° 6' W.
12.4.41.	BANFORA	Intercepted by DUNNOTTAR CASTLE between Dakar and Casablanca.
1.5.41.	MARTIN PECHEUR	Intercepted by CORINTHIAN 44° 6' N., 29° 36' W. Sunk by fire (believed accidental) ? 10/5 in 37° 7' N., 8° 30' W.
1.5.41.	CAP CANTIN	Intercepted by LOCH OSKAIG in North Atlantic. Sent in to Gibraltar.
8.5.41.	GALLIUM	Intercepted by TRUANT in 39° 40' N., 3° 50' E. Being escorted to Gibraltar.
9.5.41.	CRITON	Intercepted by CILICIA in South Atlantic. Arrived Freetown 11/5.
13.5.41.	BOURBONNAIS	Intercepted by BULOLO 100 miles S.W. of Dakar. Taken to Freetown.
17.5.41.	IZARRA	Intercepted by REGISTAN in approx. 45° 46' N., 29° 10' W. arrived St. Johns, Newfoundland, 29/5.
18.5.41.	LIEUT ST LOUBERT BIE	Intercepted by NEWCASTLE in 21° 31' S. 5° 56' W. taken to Durban by PRETORIA CASTLE 28/5.
21.5.41.	SHEHERAZADE	Tanker. Escaped from New Orleans Captured by DIOMEDE. Released but oil cargo reduced, under pressure from U.S.
23.5.41.	CAPITAINE DAMIANI	Torpedoed by UPHOLDER off Cape Del Armi, apparently reached port (18/6/41)
26.5.41.	WINNIPEG	Intercepted by VAN KINSBERGEN 14° 52' N., 60° 38' W.
28.5.41.	RABELAIS	Bombed and destroyed in Sfax harbour in mistake for an Italian M.V.
1.6.41.	ARICA	Intercepted by VAN KINSBERGEN in 17° 12' N., 53° 19' W. Being taken to Trinidad.

Date	Name	Details
6.6.41.	ALBERTA	Tanker. Sunk off Dardanelles by TORBAY (see 18/6/41)
11.6.41.	FIRUZ	Tanker. Sunk by TORBAY in Central Mediterranean.
17.6.41.	DESIRADE	Intercepted by PRETORIA CASTLE in South Atlantic.
19.6.41.	COMPIEGNE	Intercepted by Dutch in Sunda Strait. Taken to Tanjong Priok. Released for fear of reprisals
26.6.41.	L'EMERAUDE	Intercepted by MARSDALE in North Atlantic. Sent to St. Johns N.F.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

Sunk, Scuttled, Captured or Damaged

Name	Date	Circumstances	Diary Reference
Numerous Ships.	10.6.40. 11.6.40.	Siezed in British Ports etc., on outbreak of War with Italy.	10.6.40. 11.6.40. 12.6.40.
ROMOLO	12.6.40.	Intercepted by MANOORA, Scuttled	12.6.40.
UMBRIA	12.6.40.	Scuttled at Port Sudan.	Re salvage 3.1.41.
ALABAMA	12.6.40.	Intercepted by French BARFLEUR, beached, Maracaibo.	12.6.40.
GIULIO	12.6.40.	Captured, Suez Canal.	6.40. 13.6.40.
CASO	12.6.40.	" " "	"
DENTICE	12.6.40.	Scuttled, aground, Maracaibo.	12.6.40. 13.6.40.
GERUSALEMME	11.6.40.	Beached, Potuguese territory E. Indies. Discharged cargo at Lourenco Marques.	12.6.40. 31.7.40.
ESQUILINO	12.6.40.	Captured at Aden.	18.6.40.
CELLINA	19.6.40.	Seized in prize, Gibraltar.	19.6.40. 24.6.40.
LIBANO	19.6.40.	" " " "	19.6.40. 31.7.40.
MARZOCCO	10.6.40.	Beached after scuttling, Gibraltar.	20.6.40. 2.7.40. 10.6.40 Supp.
PAGANINI	28.6.40.	Caught fire and sank off Durazzo.	28.6.40 Supp. 11.7.40. 28.3.41.
SISTIANA	29.6.40.	Taken over by S. Africa, renamed MYRICA.	4.7.40.
CAPO NOLI	9.6.40.	Scuttled St. Lawrence, refloated 3/7.	4.7.40.
MANZONI	5.7.40.	Sunk in attack on Tobruk.	6.7.40.

Name	Date	Circumstances	Diary Reference
LIGURIA	5. 7.40.	Damaged in attack on Tobruk	6. 7.40.
REMO		(Seized at Fremantle 10/6) Commissioned as R.A.F.A. 13/7.	15.7.40.
3 Ships	20. 7.40.	Hit by F.A.A. at Tobruk	20.7.40. 25.7.40.
VERBANIA	29. 7.40.	Arrived Haifa in prize	30.7.40.
FELCE	31. 7.40.	Left Haifa in prize. (arrived Port Said 2/8)	31.7.40. 4.8.40.
Unknown 3000 tons ? LEOPARDI	15. 8.40.	Sunk by OSIRIS, Southern Adriatic, Straits of Otranto.	20.8.40. 26.8.40. 10.10.40.
FILIPPO GRIMANI	26. 8.40.	Made S.O.S. attacked by S/M, 41.13 N., 18.55 E.	26. 8.40.
2 M.V's.	21. 8.40.	Claimed hit by torpedoes from RORQUAL.	27. 8.40.
Collier ? CARBONIA	22. 8.40.	Lost by mine or torpedo between Bari & Durazzo.	8. 9.40. 24.10.40.
DENTICE	3. 9.40.	Refloated after scuttling to be towed Porto Cabello.	9. 9.40. 14. 9.40. etc. 24. 9.40.
CARMEN	30. 9.40.	Reported torpedoed off Durazzo.	8.10.40.
1 M.V.	25. 9.40.	3000 tons, sunk by TRUANT off Naples.	10.10.40.
1 M.V.	28. 9.40.	800 tons, sunk by PANDORA off Benghazi.	10.10.40.
1 M.V.	29. 9.40.	Damaged in torpedo attack by Swordfish off Tobruk.	10,10.40.
1.M.V.	11.10.40.	Damaged in air raid on Tobruk.	12.10.40.
FRANCA FASSIO	10.40.	Torpedoed & sunk off Savona.	13.10.40. 16.10.40. 23.10.40. [illegible].40. 616 18. 2.41. 716 21. 2.41.
1 M.V.	4.10.40.	5,000 tons sunk off Genoa by TRITON.	14.10.40.
1 M.V.	6.10.40.	3,000 tons sunk in Vado Roads by TRITON.	14.10.40. 21. 2.41.
1 M.V.	14.10.40.	Hit by R.A.F. at Benghazi	15.10.40.

Name	Date	Circumstances	Diary Reference
1 M.V.	9.10.40.	5000-6000 tons, sunk by REGENT off Durazzo.	18.10.40.
1 M.V.	19.10.40.	Hit by R.A.F. at Benghazi	20.10.40.
1 M.V.	18.10.40.	" " " " "	19.10.40.
1 or 2 M.V's.	4.11.40.	Torpedoed by TETRARCH (Capt. S.1. 1541/4/3/41) See Summaries Folder.	(Not in W.D.)
1 M.V.	7.11.40.	Damaged by R.A.F. at Valona	7.11.40. 10.11.40.
4 M.V's.	12.11.40.	1 sunk, 2 probably sunk, 1 damaged, in raid into Straits of Otranto, off Valona, by 7th C.S.	12.11.40. 13.11.40.
(PREMUDA)		PREMUDA stated by Italians to have been sunk, 12/11.	6. 4.41.
RAMB III ANTONIO LOCATELLI	12.11.40 12.11.40	S.O.S. broadcast from Taranto stating being bombarded off Valona. R.A.F. hit 2 ships there.	12.11.41. 13.11.40.
1 M.V.	16.11.40.	About 1500 tons, damaged by COLOMBO off Mogadishu.	17.11.40.
1 M.V.	24.11.40.	10,000 tons, hit by R.A.F. at Durazzo.	24.11.40.
1 M.V.	24.11.40.	Small, hit by R.A.F. at Durazzo.	
1 Ship	26.22.40.	R.A.F. hit large ship (? possibly warship) at Valona.	26.11.40. 27.11.40.
ANTONIETTA COSTA CATALANI NUMIDIA SANANDREA		Reported among 9 Italian vessels recently sunk at Otranto. First-named sent out S.O.S. on 10/10.	1.12.40.
1 M.V.	2.12.40.	Hit by R.A.F. at Valona.	2.12.40.
OLIMPIA	6.12.40.	Made S.O.S. from Adriatic or E. Mediterranean.	6.12.40. 26.12.40.
1 M.V.	7.12.40.	Hit by R.A.F. at Valona	7.12.40. 8.12.40.
1 M.V.	10.12.40.	Hit by R.A.F. at Valona	10.12.40. 11.12.40.
2 M.V's.	14.12.40.	Hit by F.A.A. Swordfish at Tripoli.	14.12.40.

Name	Date	Circumstances	Diary Reference
1 M.V.	14.12.40.	Sunk by TRUANT off Spartivento.	18.12.40.
Tanker	16.12.40.	Sunk by TRUANT off Colonne.	18.12.40.
2 M.V's	22.12.40.	Sunk by F.A.A. Swordfish off Kerkenah Island.	23.12.40.
1 Schooner	26.12.40.	Sunk by WATERHEN near Tobruk.	2. 1.41.
1 Schooner	29.12.40.	Captured by VOYAGER near Tobruk.	2. 1.41.
2 Schooners	31.12.40.	Captured by DAINTY near Tobruk.	2. 1.41.
2 M.V's.	1. 1.41.	Hit by R.A.F. at Tripoli, 1 of 10,000 tons sunk.	2. 1.41. 4. 1.41.
1 Tanker	1.41.	Sunk off San Giovanni di Medua by Greek submarine.	5. 1.41.
2 small M.V's	1. 1.41.	Reported sunk off Bar by Greek submarines.	16. 1.41.
1 large M.V.	6. 1.41.	Hit by R.A.F. at Tripoli, explosion observed.	6. 1.41. 7. 7.41.
1 M.V.	7. 1.41.	Probably sunk by ROVER (Not in W.D., see Special Summaries Folder)	----------
5 M.V's	9. 1.41.	Hit by R.A.F. at Benghazi	9. 1.41. 10. 1.41.
Small M.V's.	9. 1.41.	Hit by R.A.F. at Tobruk.	10. 1.41.
2 Supply Ships. (? 1 possibly PALMA)	9. 1.41.	Sunk off Sardinia by PANDORA.	13. 1.41. 15. 1.41.
PIEMONTE	?	Stated sunk in Valona by Air Attack.	14. 1.41.
Supply Ship 7000 tons.	9. 1.41.	Sunk off Spartivento by PARTHIAN.	17. 1.41.
SARDEGNA) LOMBARDIA) LIGURIA) (Transports)	?	Reported torpedoed and sunk on way from Brindisi to Albania (LIGURIA see 1.2.41.)	19. 1.41. 28. 3.41.
DIEGO ¼ Schooner.	21. 1.41.	Sunk off Tobruk, prisoners in VAMPIRE.	22. 1.41. 23. 1.41.

Name	Date	Circumstances	Diary Reference
1 M.V.	14.12.40.	Sunk by TRUANT off Spartivento.	18.12.40.
Tanker	16.12.40.	Sunk by TRUANT off Colonne.	18.12.40.
2 M.V's	22.12.40.	Sunk by F.A.A. Swordfish off Kerkenah Island.	23.12.40.
1 Schooner	26.12.40.	Sunk by WATERHEN near Tobruk.	2. 1.41.
1 Schooner	29.12.40.	Captured by VOYAGER near Tobruk.	2. 1.41.
2 Schooners	31.12.40.	Captured by DAINTY near Tobruk.	2. 1.41.
2 M.V's.	1. 1.41.	Hit by R.A.F. at Tripoli, 1 of 10,000 tons sunk.	2. 1.41. 4. 1.41.
1 Tanker	1.41.	Sunk off San Giovanni di Medua by Greek submarine.	5. 1.41.
2 small M.V's	1. 1.41.	Reported sunk off Bar by Greek submarines.	16. 1.41.
1 large M.V.	6. 1.41.	Hit by R.A.F. at Tripoli, explosion observed.	6. 1.41. 7. 7.41.
1 M.V.	7. 1.41.	Probably sunk by ROVER (Not in W.D., see Special Summaries Folder)	----------
5 M.V's	9. 1.41.	Hit by R.A.F. at Benghazi	9. 1.41. 10. 1.41.
Small M.V's.	9. 1.41.	Hit by R.A.F. at Tobruk.	10. 1.41.
2 Supply Ships. (? 1 possibly PALMA)	9. 1.41.	Sunk off Sardinia by PANDORA.	13. 1.41. 15. 1.41.
PIEMONTE	?	Stated sunk in Valona by Air Attack.	14. 1.41.
Supply Ship 7000 tons.	9. 1.41.	Sunk off Spartivento by PARTHIAN.	17. 1.41.
SARDEGNA) LOMBARDIA) LIGURIA) (Transports)	?	Reported torpedoed and sunk on way from Brindisi to Albania (LIGURIA see 1.2.41.)	19. 1.41. 28. 3.41.
DIEGO ¼ Schooner.	21. 1.41.	Sunk off Tobruk, prisoners in VAMPIRE.	22. 1.41. 23. 1.41.

Name	Date	Circumstances	Diary Reference
3 M.V's	24.1.41.	Claimed sunk by Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS	24.1.41.
MARCO POLO	24.1.41.	Found burnt out wreck in harbour after capture of Tobruk.	25.1.41.
1 M.V. 5000 tons.	27.1.41.	Sunk by Swordfish A/C off Tunis.	27.1.41. 28.1.41.
1 M.V. (? CARALIS)	27.1.41.	Hit by Swordfish A/C off Tunis.	27.1.41. 28.1.41.
1 M.V.	29.1.41.	Mined off Tripoli	29.1.41.
1 M.V.	31.1.41.	Hit by R.A.F. in Tripoli Harbour.	31.1.41.
1 M.V. 8000 tons (transport)	28.1.41.	Sunk by UPHOLDER off Tunisia	30.1.41.
1 M.V. 5000 tons	30.1.41.	Hit possibly sunk, by UPHOLDER off Tunisia.	30.1.41.
LIGURIA	?	Reported in The Times to be a wreck in Tobruk Harbour Athens wireless reports sunk carrying troops and war materials.	1.2.41. 34 28.3.41.
GIOVANNI MARIA	?	Sunk off Libyan Coast near Tobruk.	1.2.41. 34.
ZINNGARELLA TIBERIO MARIO GIOVANNA MADRE DEL RAZIE	Before 9.2.41.	Auxiliary schooners, captured off Libya.	9.2.41. 296.
1 M.V. (? JUVENTUS)	16.2.41.	Sunk by torpedo from Swordfish A/C near Kerkenah Is.	17.2.41. 578. 18.2.41. 616.
VOLTA	24.2.41.	Believed mined in 42.48 N., 10.42 E.	27.2.41. 949.
1 M.V.	27.2.41.	Sunk by UPRIGHT	27.2.41. 941.
ISCHIA	?27.2.41.	Mined in Gulf of Manfredonia	27.2.41. 949.
SENIO	?	Blown up in Yugoslav port, believed time bomb.	27.2.41. 949.

Name	Date	Circumstances	Diary Reference
FENICIA	10.3.41.	Taranto broadcast S.O.S. in 34.19 N., 12.40 E. Considered sunk by UNIQUE	10.3.41. 342 17.3.41. 563
2 ships of 2500 tons.	2.3.41.	Sunk by TRIUMPH at anchor inshore off C. Dellarmi, Melito, Southern Calabria.	13.3.41. 422 - 438 17.3.41. 563
1M.V.	13.3.41.	Sunk at Valona by F.A.A. Swordfish.	14.3.41. 473 18.3.41. 599
1 M.V.(?PO)	15.3.41.	Hit by F.A.A. Swordfish at Valona. (Italians state Hospital ship PO, and that ship was sunk.	16.3.41. 530 18.3.41. 599
? 2 M.V's	17.3.41.	Hit by Swordfish A/C at Durazzo.	18.3.41. 599
1 M.V.	18.3.41.	About 1500 tons. Sunk by F.A.A. at Burat el Hsun. Cyrenaica	19.3.41. 630
SAN GIORGIO	?	364 tons. Athens wireless 27/3 states sunk carrying troops in Adriatic.	28.3.41. 910
1 M.V. 1 Tanker	16.3.41.	Believed torpedoed by PARTHIAN off Cap Dell Ami	27.2.41. 874
CARNIA	23.3.41.	Supply ship, sunk by Greek S/M TRITON.	29.3.41. 958
2 M.V's ? SILVIO TRIPCOVITCH	28.3.41.	Torpedoed by UTMOST, Medtn. Bodies washed up near Sfax.	2.4.41. 17.4.41.
LAURA CORRADO	31.3.41.	Sunk by RORQUAL, Medtn.	2.4.41.
1 M.V. 8000 tons	2.4.41.	4 hits by Swordfish A/C Red Sea, near Massawa.	3.4.41.
1 M.V.	2.4.41.	Possibly hit by R.A.F. Wellingtons, Tripoli.	3.4.41.
RAVENNA VERACE MULTIDO	?	Reported lost (unconfirmed)	5.4.41.
TERESA ODERO TROTTIERA JOLE FASSIO SESOSTRIS		Scuttled at Puerto Cabello	1.4.41.

Name	Date	Circumstances	Diary Reference
GIULIO GIORDANI	June 1940	Reported damaged by mine off Taranto.	5.2.41. 169.
Unknown 5000 tons		Said to have been sunk recently off Vis Island.	5.2.41.
Unknown 6000 tons		Said to have been sunk recently off Dubrovnik.	5.2.41. 169.
LELLO		C.2. report, sunk trading between Barcelona and Genoa.	6.2.41. 205.
URSUS (Tug)	31. 1.41.	Sunk by RORQUAL	12.2.41. 399.
Urknown 3500 tons	11. 2.41.	Sunk by TRUANT off Tripoli	15.2.41. 517.
CITTA DI MESSINA	15. 1.41.	Sunk by REGENT off Miswrata	17.2.41. 578
		342	10.3.41. 11.3.41
Troopship ? GARIBALDI	9. 2.41.	Reported hit in dock during bombardment of Genoa.	13.2.41. .443 16.2.41. 550
Unknown	13/14. 2.41.	Considered sunk by Sword-fish off Kerkenah I.	473. 14.2.41.
Tanker	14. 2.41.	Sunk by ROVER	15.2.41. 515.
Unknown 8000 tons	12. 2.41.	Torpedoed & seen with stern awash by UTMOST.	17.2.41. 578.
COSCO	14. 2.41.	Heard making S.O.S. off C. Orzzuto. Evidently sunk.	15.2.41. 517.
MARGHERA	About 14. 2.41.	Scuttled at Kismayu	20.2.41. 678.
CARSO	"	" " "	21.2.41. 713
INTERGRITAS	"	" " "	22.2.41. 754.
RAMB I	27. 2.41.	Scuttled when intercepted of Italian Somaliland by LEANDER.	27.2.41. 943 28.2.41. 986. 8.3.41. 277.
Unknown	13.2.41.	Sunk by F.A.A. at Massawa	13.2.41. 439.
? Another Supply Ship	13.2.41. 23.2.41.	Sunk in Adriatic by Greek S/M NEREUS (The Times, 7/3/41).	7.3.41 239.

Name	Date	Circumstances	Diary Reference
Unknown	23. 2.41.	Torpedoed by UPRIGHT	1.3.41. 28.
SAVOIA ADRIA ERMINIA MAZELLA MANON LEONADO DA VINCI	11. 2.41.	Captured at Kismayu by HAWKINS. Taken to Mombasa.	11.2.41. 358 12.2.41. 404 15.2.41. 524 16.2.41. 552 17.2.41. 580 22.2.41 750.
SOMALIA PENSILVANIA		Sunk by SHROPSHIRE during bombardment of Mogadishu.	580. 17.2.41. 13.2.41. 23.2.41. 4.3.41 137
DUCA DEGLI ARBRUZZI			
DURMITOR			
KIONGA ASKARI			
CONTE ROSSO		Troopship. U.S.N. Attache, Rome, 7/3 reports sunk.	8.3.41. 275 10.3.41. 342
CAPO VITA ATTILIO DEFFENU	9.3.41. 9.3.41.	S.O.S. Gulf of Harmmamet	Attacked by UTMOST. One considered sunk. 9.3.41. 310 9.3.41 310 17.3.41. 563
SICILIA class transport	22.2.41.	Torpedoed by URSULA, last seen sinking, off Tripoli.	5.3.41. 357 11.3.41.
MONCALIERI	?	Sunk in Massawa by bombs.	10.3.41. 346

Name	Date	Circumstances	Diary Reference
FELLA	31.4.41.	Fired at Punta Arenas Costa Rica, (Sunk 1/4)	31.3.41. 1.4.41.
1 M.V.	8.4.41.	Hit by R.A.F. at Massawa 8/4.	8.4.41.
1 Tanker	12.4.41.	Torpedoed by TETRARCH 20m N. of Tripoli.	15.4.41.
1 M.V.	13.4.41.	Hit and set on fire by R.A.F. Tripoli.	13.4.41.
10,000 ton Tanker.	13.4.41.	Torpedoed by 815 Sqdn. F.A.A. off Brindisi.	15.4.41.
1 ship 6000 tons	14.4.41.	Hit by F.A.A. Swordfish at Valona.	15.4.41.
Ammunition Ship.	14.4.41.	Destroyed by F.A.A. Swordfish at Valona.	15.4.41.
5 M.V's	16.4.41.	Sunk in Convoy by 14th D.F. Kerkenah Bank.	16.4.41.
Believed to be SABAUDIA and 4 Germans ADANA AEGINA ISERLOHN ARTA		B.2. report said to have been given by survivors. (Confirmed by UPHOLDER see 4/5/41.)	27.4.41.
3 M.V's	21.4.41.	Destroyed in Fleet bombardment of Tripoli.	21.4.41. 23.4.41.
1 Barque	16.4.41.	Laden with explosives, sunk by TRUANT off Appollonia.	
1 M.V. (ADRIA Class?	23.4.41.	Sunk by 14th D.F. off Kerkenah Bank.	24.4.41.
CAZZINI 4 or 5 M.V's	Before 22.4.41.	Sunk by A/C Gubbet Sogra, Eritrea	22.4.41.
1 M.V. probably BAINSIZZA	25.4.41.	Sunk by UPHOLDER 34.50 N., 11.47 E.	4.5.41.
SANGRO tanker	1.5.41.	Captured by CAVINA, 44.36 N., 30.20 W. Torpedoed 6/5/41.	1.5.41.

Position of Scuttled Shipping in Italian East Africa.
(D.S., 601, 28/4/1941)

Name	Date	Circumstances	Diary Reference
1 FELS Line 1 BURGOLAND Type.	1.5.41.	Sunk by UPHOLDER, 34.41.N. 11.39 W.	1.5.41. 4.5.41.
1 M.V.	1.5.41.	Attacked by Blenheims, claimed sunk, Kerkenah.	2.5.41.
1 M.V.	1.5.41.	Hit during night 30-1 by Wellingtons, Benghazi.	1.5.41.
RECCO (Tanker)	3.5.41.	Scuttled when intercepted by HILARY 44° 37' N., 24° 27' W.	3.5.41.
Transport	**On or Before 7.5.41.**	**Sunk by TAKU.**	7.5.41.
MARIA EUGENIA) GLORIA STELLA) Various SNIA AMBA)		Sunk or damaged at Benghazi before British occupation on 7/2/1941.	7.5.41.

Cont. On

Reel K-7A

ENDING OF

REEL K-6A

DOCUMENTS • PHOTOGRAPHED

1 June - 1940 To 30 June - 1940
Cont. from Reel K-5A
1 July 1940 To 31 July - 1940
27-4-40 To 31-4-40
Cont. on K-7A

O.N.I.

DATE: 4/15/46

MACH. NO. 1701

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